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CHILDREN OF FAR CATHAY.

A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL NOVEL OF
ABSORBING INTEREST.

By **CHAS. J. HALCOMBE.**

Formerly of the Imperial Chinese Customs
Service, Author of "The Mystic
Flower Land," etc.

THE VOLUME, which consists of 491
pages, and includes a Sketch Plan
of historical interest showing the disposition
of the Forces at the battle of Kwei-
lin, is dedicated to Sir ROBERT HART,
G.O.M.G., and Dr. A. RENZI.
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WALSH, LTD., Messrs. BREWER & Co., or
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"HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" Office.

**ALLEGED AMMUNITION-
RUNNING IN KOBE.****SUSPECTED SUPPLY TO CHINESE
REVOLUTIONARIES.**

The Kobe Water Police on the 28th ult. seized cases containing 14,000 rounds of ammunition at a Japanese forwarding agency in Kobe. It is reported that this affair is connected with the recent police activity in Tokyo, where they have been searching for information regarding any transactions in arms and ammunition that had later been made, says the *Japan Chronicle*.

The proprietor of the Japanese forwarding agency mentioned was rigorously examined at the police station, but refused to make any statement. The police made searches at his house, and seized letters and documents. According to the *Kobe Shimburn*, the police say that he sold ammunition to a foreigner in Kobe, at between 12 and 13 per round, which he bought at 25, and the foreigner is shipping the ammunition through him either to Dairen or to Shanghai to be sold to the Chinese revolutionaries. The *Kobe* paper further states that, during the past three years, the forwarding agent bought 17,000 rifles, which had been captured by Japan in the Russo-Japanese war and placed on the market by the Government, from a Japanese merchant in Tokyo, and sold them to a foreigner, who disposed of them to the Chinese revolutionaries. On the 28th ult. the prisoner was transferred to the Procurator's Office.

GOVERNMENT AND SHIPPING.**REQUISITION OF INSULATED
SPACES.**

The Gazette contains the copy of an Order of the King-in-Council for the requisition of the whole of the insulated spaces in all British steamships registered in the United Kingdom.

The order declares that, service of notice of requisition on an owner of any steamship or insulated space therein shall be deemed sufficient and effective if served in the case of an individual owner, by being addressed to such individual owner and left at his last known place of business or abode; and, in the case of joint owners, by being addressed to such joint owners, and left at the last known business addresses or places of abode of such joint owners; and, in the case of being addressed to such Company or Corporation and left at the registered or other address of such Company or Corporation; or, in any of the aforesaid cases, so far as regards service in respect of any steamship, by being addressed to the Managing Owner, ship's husband or other person to whom the management of the ship is by law entrusted by or on behalf of the owners, and left at the registered or other last known address or place of abode of such Managing Owner, ship's husband or other such person, as the case may be.

The order declares that, service of notice of requisition on an owner of any steamship or insulated space therein shall be deemed sufficient and effective if served in the case of an individual owner, by being addressed to such individual owner and left at his last known place of business or abode; and, in the case of joint owners, by being addressed to such joint owners, and left at the last known business addresses or places of abode of such joint owners; and, in the case of being addressed to such Company or Corporation and left at the registered or other address of such Company or Corporation; or, in any of the aforesaid cases, so far as regards service in respect of any steamship, by being addressed to the Managing Owner, ship's husband or other person to whom the management of the ship is by law entrusted by or on behalf of the owners, and left at the registered or other last known address or place of abode of such Managing Owner, ship's husband or other such person, as the case may be.

A single bottle protects you from this world of painful maladies. Ask anyone who has tried it. Gold at 1s. 4d. per bottle. Agents for Hongkong: Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.

FIRES IN SHIPS.**INGENUITY OF ENEMY AGENTS.**

The Board of Trade call the attention of shipowners and merchants to the numerous cases of fire and explosion which have occurred in circumstances pointing to foul play, not only in British ships, but also in neutral ships carrying cargoes on British account or to the United Kingdom. Great ingenuity is used by enemy agents, and in one instance it was found that wood used for packing purposes had been so treated as to burst into flame under the slightest friction.

Shipowners and merchants and all persons interested in the shipment of cargo at foreign ports are advised to satisfy themselves that no firm in which there is any enemy interest shall have anything to do with the handling of the ship or cargo in which they are interested.

The Salonika correspondent of the *Temps* telegraphs that the German secret police have discovered traces of a very revolutionary plot, of which the centre is Constantinople, and the object to kill Enver Pasha, overturn the present Turkish Government and expel the Germans from Turkey.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.**YANGTZE INSURANCE
ASSOCIATION FINED.****NOTICE OF APPEAL GIVEN.**

Judgment was delivered by Mr. G. W. King, Magistrate, in H.B.M.'s Police Court, Shanghai, on the 7th inst., in the case in which the Yangtze Insurance Association, Ltd., were charged with trading with the enemy.

Mr. S. H. McKean appeared for the prosecution and Mr. R. N. Macleod for the defence.

His worship's judgment was as follows:—

The charge against the defendant company is that they on the 19th day of January, 1915, at Hankow did by the issue of a contract of marine insurance covering war risk numbered 157054 insure, and thereby undertook to make good, any loss or damage then to be suffered by the enemy at sea, to wit Carlowitz & Co., an enemy firm, in respect of 176 cases of hen yolk and 74 cases of albumen of the total value of Tls. 15,077.74, being goods of the enemy liable to capture at sea, contrary to the provisions of section 1 of the Treasonable Insurance Regulations 1914 No. 17 of 1914. The charge was subsequently amended by altering the 176 cases to 170.

The evidence shows the defendant Company had German agents in various parts of China and that they appointed already having a British firm as agents—a German firm Telgo & Schroeter just before the outbreak of war to be their agents at Hankow, and that these various German agencies were not terminated till January, 1915. A letter was written by the secretary of the defendant Company to Telgo & Schroeter on August 11th, 1914, expressing the hope that certain German steamers would escape capture; his explanation is that it is a way of being "nice," and is an expression of hope that his Company—who were interested in the cargoes on those ships—would save their money.

Even allowing that British subjects at that early stage of the war had not fully realized the magnitude of the struggle, nor the character of their opponents, I cannot say that it is a letter that should have been written by a British company to Germans then at war with the British Empire.

But the letter July 1st, 1915, is one which calls for much more explanation, and I noticed that no mention of this letter was made by counsel for the defendant Company in his final speech. This letter terminated the agency of Telgo & Schroeter and contained words which the Secretary of the Company admitted "rather showed the agency may be resumed on the termination of the war," and he added that similar letters had been sent to the other German agents. Be it noted that these letters were written months after the war started and when the nature of the warfare had been fully disclosed.

It is common knowledge that after the war the present bitter commercial struggle will be intensified. Yet here we find a British company proposing to employ as agents firms of the nation which is the greatest commercial rival in China of their own nation. If other British firms or companies adopt similar tactics can the future prospects of our trade be viewed with equanimity? I leave the answer to British commercial men in China.

I now turn to the case which is before me for decision, and I propose first to find the facts, and when those are ascertained, to deal with the law to be applied to them.

The facts I find are that Telgo & Schroeter, the Hankow agents of the defendant Company, issued the policy; that the bills of lading were in the name of Carlowitz & Co., of Hankow; that the consignee was Townsend Rushmore, of New York, a partner in the firm of Carlowitz & Co., at any rate in 1913; that the firm of Carlowitz & Co., has its head office here and is registered in the German Consulate here; that the cargo left Hankow in the str. *Kuluo* and Shanghai in the str. *Ladro*, both British steamers; that it was shipped subject to war risk; and that it is the property of Carlowitz & Co. No evidence was offered by the defendant Company of ownership of the goods. No copy of the policy was produced to the Court; a press copy was seen by the secretary who was almost certain the "frog from capture" clause was omitted. The particulars of the policy, however, were set out in the *Temps*, January, 1915, return of Telgo & Schroeter, which has been produced to the Court (Ex 2).

It is now necessary to deal with the law and I set out the section of the Regulations under which the charge is brought—it reads as follows:—

"Any person subject to the jurisdiction of His Majesty's Supreme Court for China who insures.....or otherwise undertakes to pay or make good any loss or damage suffered or to be suffered by the enemy at sea commits an offence."

The Regulations bear the marks of hasty drafting and were no doubt framed in a hurry—e.g. they provide for a penalty of £50 on summary conviction, whereas the O. in C. 1904, from which they derive their authority, by Art. 45 provides for a maximum fine of £200; no definition is given of an enemy; and they speak of "person subject to the jurisdiction of H. M. Supreme Court for China."

It follows therefore there must be:—

(a) A person subject to the jurisdiction,

(b) An insurance by such person,

(c) Of enemy property liable to capture at sea.

Taking these in this order:—

(a) The O. in C. 1904 under which the Regulations derive their authority provides in Art. 3 the interpretation clause that "person" includes corporation. The defendant Company, therefore, comes within the definition of a "person subject to the jurisdiction."

(b) I have found as a fact that an insurance was effected by Telgo & Schroeter, the Hankow agents of the defendant Company.

(c) There remains lastly the question of enemy property liable to capture at sea. The actual wording of section 1 of the Regulations does not include the words "liable to capture" but the Crown

accepted the contention that the words should be read into the section and took upon themselves the burden of proof that the cargo was enemy property liable to capture at sea. No definition is given of the word "enemy," and a counsel for the Crown argues that "enemy" is alien enemy.

I may fairly summarize the arguments of the counsel for the defendant Company as follows:—

(1) that the nationality of Carlowitz & Co., has not been clearly shown;

(2) assuming the cargo in question is German, that Germans in China in January, 1915, were not enemies but neutrals;

(3) that H. M. Government by various Proclamations embodied in an Act of Parliament, and Regulations declared them neutrals in China and that the recognition of neutrality legalizes trade with such persons;

(4) that a licence was granted to ship German cargo in British ships and that it follows that such cargo when shipped is not liable to capture;

(5) that if Germans can ship on British ships they can have the cargo insured;

(6) finally that this insurance could have been effected by a company in England.

(1) I find little difficulty in dealing with the question of the nationality of Carlowitz & Co. This firm is registered in the German Consulate here and has its head office here.

The *Eumaeus* (T. L. R. 23rd November, 1915) is conclusive on this point. The status of the firm of Arnold Karberg & Co.—a firm on exactly the same footing as Carlowitz & Co.—was considered and it was held that the firm was German.

I must hold that Carlowitz & Co. is a German firm.

(2) On the point that the Germans in China in January, 1915, were neutrals, Counsel quotes from Dickey Conflict of Laws 2nd edition page 741 et seq., where the author goes into the question of consular domicile. The edition was published in 1905 and, I would remark, different views as to consular domicile have been expressed since.

(3) Counsel, however, does not rely greatly on Dickey, but bases his argument principally on the Trading with the Enemy Act, 1914, the King's Regulations No. 4, of 1915, and that Germans in China were not made enemies till the Proclamation of June 25th, 1915. It is undoubtedly true that these Proclamations and the Act confirmed the meaning of "enemy" to persons resident or carrying on business in the German Empire and its colonies and dependencies; and the argument is that, trading with these alone being prohibited, all other Germans are declared neutral and therefore trade with them is legal. I consider that this argument is not sound. I entirely overlooks the purpose and scope of the Trading with the Enemy Act, and Proclamations. What exactly did the Act do? It penalized British subjects who traded with a certain class of Germans; it did not confer the status of neutrals on Germans not in that class. It was not able to do so; all that happened was that British subjects who traded with Germans not in the class aimed at were not punished.

Exactly the same reasoning applies to King's Regulation No. 4 of 1915. What the Proclamation of June 25th, 1915, and the King's Regulation No. 10 of 1915 did was to increase the classes of Germans to trade with whom subjected British subjects to penalties. This being my opinion, it is not necessary for me to deal with the law quoted by counsel from Arnold, *Manning Insurance* (9th edition, Vol. 2, page 944) and the case *Blackburn v. Thompson*, 3 Campbell Reports p. 68.

Thus being my opinion, it is not necessary for me to deal with the law quoted by counsel from Arnold, *Manning Insurance* (9th edition, Vol. 2, page 944) and the case *Blackburn v. Thompson*, 3 Campbell Reports p. 68.

And in a circular it is mentioned that the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has laid down the ruling. The Foreign Office at the time apparently was advised that Germans in China were to be treated as neutrals. The importance of extra-territoriality does not seem to have been sufficiently considered. However much respect may be paid to these advisers, I cannot see how their advice can overrule the decision of the judges given in the cases before me mentioned.

Can any ruling or opinion, licence, permission—call it what you may—of the executive make or alter the law? Undoubtedly not. Counsel for defendant Company called the Secretary and by other witnesses on the question of the permission to ship above mentioned and its relation to insurance, and counsel for the Crown two Consular officials. One of the witnesses, Mr. Cox, stated that the Consul-General informed him it was permissible to insure German cargo in neutral ships to neutral ports; a letter was written to him on August 20th, 1914, to that effect (Ex 24). It must be noted that neutral ships are mentioned—the cargo in the case before me was carried in British ships. The other witness Mr. Burnie stated that in December, 1914, the Consul-General told him he could insure German cargo to neutral ports. This statement the Consul-General has no hesitation in denying; on being further questioned as to his recollection of the interview, he added that two classes of British subjects came to see him—those who wished to trade with the enemy inquiring how far they could go, and those who did not wish to trade, and Mr. Burnie was in the former category.

It is also clear from his evidence that the Consul-General has never wavered in his opinion that trading with Germans in China was undesirable, and that being so, it seems certain to me that his recollection of the interview in question is accurate. He must have had the Treasonable

TRADE OF HONGKONG.**MORE ANIMATION IN IMPORTS.**

The following statistics and comments have been taken from the fortnightly price current and market report of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

OPIMUM.
The stocks on March 9th were 399 of Patna, 214 Benares, 2844 Malwa and 78 Persian and Turkish. The exports during the interval to Shanghai, etc., have been 25 of Patna, 3 Malwa and 30 Persian and Turkish. The balance of uncertified Bengal opium on March 9th was 164 Patna and 44 Benares. No opium was boiled by Government monopoly.

EXPORTS.
There is no change to report in the condition of the Feather market, and there is nothing doing in Ginger. No business has been done in Galangal, and the Cassia Oil market is firmer, but very little doing. Star Aniseed Oil is easier with small sales. Nothing is doing in Star Aniseed, and the same remark applies to Ground Nuts. The Yunnan Tin market is steady, with a tendency to fall owing to the Government taking control of the business. There is no stock of Quicksilver. Buyers are speculating and prices are advancing. The Saigon Cassia market is steady, and Gall Nuts are strong, but there are no stocks. The Bristles market is strong, but offers are not obtainable owing to trouble in Szechuan.

IMPORTS.
There has been more activity in the Cotton Yarn market and prices for the higher counts show some improvement. Quotations are: No. 10s at \$80 to \$107, No. 12s at \$96 to \$110, No. 16s at \$98 to \$122, No. 20s at \$102 to \$142. Arrivals 3,500 bales. Sales 3,000 bales. Shipments 3,500 bales. 15,000 bales. Unsold stock 45,000 bales. No sales of Woollens have taken place; the market is strong, but no supplies are available. Very little business is to be reported in Metals. Lead has advanced locally to \$29 to \$30 a picul. Tinplates are steady at \$16.50. A small sale of Wire Nails is reported June and July shipments at advanced rates. With the continued difficulties regarding freight, it is extremely improbable that lower quotations will be possible for many months. Yellow Metal is nominal, but there is no change in Petroleum Products. There are no stocks of Pepper, Camphor nor Window Glass. No important sales of Coal are reported. Sugar prices have declined, except for Java Brown and Stroops. There are no stocks of Saltpetre, the export of this from Calcutta being still prohibited.

Insurance Regulations in his mind and also the despatch from the Foreign Office referred to in his evidence. I need not go into details as to the interview between the Secretary of the Company and H. M. Shipping Vice-Consul. Both are agreed that at this lapse of time their recollection may not be absolutely clear, and in any case neither interview can be termed official. I now turn to the question whether the cargo was liable to capture.

Prima facie enemy cargo on a British ship is liable to capture. That this is so is laid down in Halleck International Law 1893, Volume 2, page 96.

If such owners (i.e. of property on the high seas) are hostile, friendly, or neutral, their property is to be considered hostile, friendly, or neutral and, as such, is subject to, or exempt from, capture."

The reason for the rule of English law that enemy property at sea is liable to capture is very clearly set out in the work by Pitt Cobbett at page 139.

And if further authority is required the decision in the *Eumaeus*, before quoted, clinches the matter; the destination of the cargo as in that case seems to me in this connection immaterial.

(b) Having dealt with the arguments 1-4 of counsel for defendant Company in the manner above I need only say as to (5) that the facts of the case *Usparicha v. Noble* (13 East Reports page 339) quoted by him were not the same as those of the charge under consideration. There an alien enemy was licensed by the British Government and it was held that he was entitled to have his cargo insured.

Here no German has been directly licensed by our Government and, at its highest, the contention, if successful, of the counsel for defendant company would do no more than make the German a neutral.

(6) Finally, on the question that this insurance could have been effected in England, I say it could have been effected without the Company effecting it being called on to answer a criminal charge under the Trading with the Enemy Act. It seems to me, however, that any action on the policy would fail on the ground that the contract is unenforceable.

It may be argued that the conclusion I have come to—viz., that this cargo was liable to capture at sea bears heavily on steamship companies; that, having been permitted to ship German cargo, they would find their ships detained, perhaps for many months, with consequent loss of freight, etc. I have no doubt that if such a case had arisen the British Government would have waived their rights; to act otherwise would have exposed them to contempt.

Do the same considerations apply to Insurance Companies? I think not. The Treasonable Insurance Regulations, the circular of August, 1914 (Ex. 12), the notification on August 10th, 1914, a letter from the Consul-General of September 8th in the China Association circular (Ex. 14)—all these were published; and, further, the two circulars of October 10th and 26, 1914. (Ex. 17 and 26) give no authorization to insure. Against that there is the letter of the Consul-General dated August 20th, 1914 (Ex. 24) as to insurance in neutral bottoms. It is clear that the Insurance Companies had ample notice and warning. I find this charge proved and I impose a fine of £20 on the defendant Company and order them to pay the costs of the prosecution when ascertained on taxation. Counsel for the defence announced that the decision would be appealed against, and the hearing of 17 other charges was consequently adjourned formally for three weeks.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.**CORPS ORDERS BY LT.-COL. A. CHAPMAN, V.D.****JOINED.**

1.—Private H. B. Pereira joined the Corps on March 10th, 1916, is allotted Corps No. 1980 and is posted to Right Section M.G. Co.

PARADES.

7 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.—Members of Signalling Section and other Signallers, as detailed in Signalling Section Order dated December 8th, 1915—Morse flag and Morse lamp practice at Headquarters.

Remainder, nil.

Thursday, 16th, 5.15 p.m.—Special drill for N.C.O.s of Scouts Co. at Headquarters.

Friday, 17th, 5.15 p.m.—Scouts Co., parade outside Law Courts and proceed to Happy Valley by tram for Squad and Company drill (instead of as detailed in Corps Order No. 4 dated March 10th, 1916).

DETAILS.

2.—On duty until 17th—H.K.V.R.

G. E. STEWART, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.V.C.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER RESERVES.**ORDERS BY MAJOR WAREMAN, COMMANDING.****DETAILS.**

On duty till the morning of Friday, 17th inst.—"A" Co.

Orderly Officer—Lieut. J. O. Hughes.

PARADES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 18th INST.

Recruits on the Cricket Ground on Monday, 13th inst., Wednesday, 15th inst., and Thursday, 16th inst., at 5.15 p.m. under Drill Instructor Sergt. Oakley.

Dress: Drill order.

Signalling Section at Volunteer Headquarters on Monday, 13th inst., Wednesday, 15th inst., and Friday, 17th inst., at 5.15 p.m. Uniform to be worn.

"B" Co. on the road outside the Law Courts on Tuesday, 14th inst., at 5.15 p.m. Dress: Drill order.

"A" Co. on the road outside the Law Courts on Friday, 17th inst., at 5.15 p.m. Dress: Drill order.

"D" Co. at Volunteer Headquarters on Wednesday, 15th inst., at 5.15 p.m. under Sergt. Major Cooke, for instruction in aiming for all members who have not fired Parts 1 and 2 Musketry Course. Dress: Drill order.

FIELD FIRING.

All members of "B" Co., excluding recruits who have not fired Parts 1 and 2 Musketry course for recruits, but including all exempted members, will parade on the Cricket Ground on Sunday, 19th inst., at 8.45 a.m. All signallers will attend this parade.

G. K. H. BRUTTON, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.V.C.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.**POLICE RESERVE SPORTS.**

A Committee is to be formed for the purpose of organising a Sports Meeting. Members experienced in such matters are invited to send their names to this office.

MOUNTED POLICE.

All troopers will report in multi (unless otherwise ordered) to the Riding Master at the Stables at 5.30 p.m. each day (except Saturdays and Sundays) until further orders.

MAXIM GUNNERS.

Will parade in uniform with Caps and covers at Central Station at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, March 13th, 15th and 17th.

STAFF.

Chief Inspectors d'Almeida and J. M. Wong are placed on the Staff.

TRAMWAYS.

Two men have been reported for travelling in uniform on Tramscars otherwise than when going on or coming off duty, and re-using to pay any fare. Any future report will be dealt with as an offence against the Company's By-laws and the Police Regulations.

PLATOON PARADE.

No. 1 Co. (No. 2 Platoon) will parade at Water Police Station on Tuesday, March 14th, at 5.45 p.m.

MUSKETRY RANGES E AND F.

All P.-s. of Nos. 2 and 3 Companies who have fired Ranges A to D are provisionally warned to attend the Range on Sunday, March 19th.

JOINED.

Mounted Patrols: C. I. Maxwell, No. 1 Co. (No. 1 Platoon)—G. Wilson, L. A. Tobias.

No. 1 Co. (No. 4 Platoon)—M. Mahmood, Sheikh Moosa, A. Hassan.

ORCHESTRA PRACTICE.

Monday, March 13th, at 6 p.m. The Bandmaster and Orchestra Conductor will allow their men who are attached to Platoons to attend next week's parades for the Drill Cup.

F. C. JENKIN, D.S.P. (R.)

MEAGRE GERMAN BILLS OF FARE.

It has become the custom in numerous leading German newspapers to supply their readers with bills of fare for the two fleshless and fatless days of each week. Here is a week's menus from the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*:—

For a Simple Household's Dinner

Tuesday—Barley soup. Pancakes filled with pickled herring. Tomato sauce.

Friday—Potato soup. Fish pie with caper sauce.

For a Better Class Family.

Tuesday—Asparagus soup (from cans). Roast slices of celery with Brussels sprouts. Pancakes with orange marmalade.

Friday—Cauliflower soup. Boiled Indian meal with mustard sauce. Semolina pudding with fruit juice.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

CANTON, March 10th.

REBEL ACTIVITY IN KWANGTUNG.

There has been considerable rebel activity lately. On the night of the 7th inst., a revolutionist threw a bomb on the railway track near Shek-Ha station, 22 miles from Canton, damaging the line for some 10 feet. A good-sized bomb must have been used for the rails were badly bent, the sleepers charred, and rocks and splinters were scattered over a considerable area. The guard at the station has since been reinforced and every effort is being made to trace the culprit.

On the afternoon of the 6th inst., the revolutionists attempted to seize the man-of-war *Shin Wo*, anchored off Whampoa. After overpowering the crew of the str. *Hing Ku*, a native-owned passenger boat trading between Canton and Macao (at which latter port they evidently embarked under the guise of peace-ful merchants proceeding to Canton on business), a band of 30 revolutionists took command of the vessel and headed her for Whampoa. Arriving there, they steered alongside the *Shin Wo*, and aimed a shower of bombs at her preparatory to boarding her. The man-of-war, however, was not caught napping, and met the assault with a fierce fusillade of rifle-fire. The revolutionists, realising the hopelessness of the situation, turned tail, made for the beach, and fled to the hills. According to the latest reports, one of the revolutionists has since been captured. Upon him was found an automatic pistol, with a plentiful supply of cartridges. According to this man, the rebels' plan was to seize the gunboat and bombard Canton City, which would be the signal for a general rising.

It is reported that last night rebels, numbering 2,000 strong, captured Hei Chung, Chong Chung, Ma Chong and Tai-sink. All these places are important market towns—the first three in the Sun Tak district, and the last-named in the Pun Yu district—and are only from three to five hours distant from Canton by launch.

AT THE MAGISTRACY.

A COPPER PIPE.

For being in unlawful possession of a copper pipe valued at \$25, a Chinese was fined \$25, or, in default, six weeks' imprisonment.

ATTEMPTED BRIBERY.

When told by an Indian constable that he would be summoned for obstruction a Chinese offered a bribe of \$1.20 to be let off. The matter was reported, and the Chinese was fined \$8 for obstruction, \$25 for offering the bribe, and the \$1.20 was forfeited.

A STOLEN CHILD.

Inspector Brazil, in Mr. Wood's Court on Saturday, related a story of how a widowed mother had her son, aged eight years, stolen from her. Some weeks ago the widow came from the country, where her husband had died, and went to live at 12, Bridges Street. A Chinese lived on the same floor of the house, and it would be alleged against him that he took the boy from the street at 6 p.m. on the 6th inst. to the steamer *Sui Tung*, which was due to leave for San Mei at 9 a.m. the following day. At 4 a.m. a Chinese constable observed a boy lying on the middle deck of the *Sui Tung* near the engine-room, covered with a mat, and defendant was squatting beside him. The case was referred to the Secretary for Chinese Affairs and instructions were given to prosecute.

The case was adjourned.

ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO DEFRAUD A BANK.

A Chinese coolie, said to be earning \$2 a month, was charged in Mr. Wood's Court with trying to secure, by fraudulent means, the sum of \$350 from the Kung Shung Bank, 35, Bonham Street. Mr. Preston defended.

Inspector McDonald said that about nine o'clock on Friday morning a man went into the Bank, placed a letter on the counter and went out again without saying a word. The letter was supposed to have come from the Bank's head office at Kowloon, and its contents were to the effect that a man named Chung Shiu Wei had deposited with the Bank three \$350 in twenty cent pieces. About noon the same day the defendant, who represented himself to be Chung Shiu Wei, produced a receipt alleged to have been chopped by the Kowloon Bank and asked for the money in bank-notes. The accountant signed the book and telephoned for the police, and defendant was arrested. The chop was not the chop of the head office.

The case was remanded for a week, bail being allowed in the sum of \$1,000.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG LEAGUE, DIVISION I.

R.G.A. GAIN TWO POINTS AT CLUB'S EXPENSE.

The Hongkong F.C. played an extremely good game against the R.G.A. on Saturday in view of the fact that three of the most prominent players, Black, McCubbin, and McTavish, were resting. This necessitated a radical rearrangement of the team. Ridger, who has done so well between the sticks, was given a chance, of which he fully availed himself, to show his ability as a forward. Railton performed at right back, with Dickie as an efficient partner, and Croucher came in at outside right. There was only one serious fault to find with the team's display, and that was the impotency of the forwards within shooting range. Had they shot oftener and with more accuracy they would have secured two or three goals, for there were plenty of excellent chances that might easily have been turned to account. A similar error in tactics was discernible again and again in the soldiers' front rank. They persisted in passing and re-passing when a determined thrust forward would have been the more promising move. They erred in the direction of selfishness, passing when they might have shot.

The Club's display was noteworthy for the individual excellence of Ridger and Robinson. The former swung across centres repeatedly that were always well thrown into the danger zone, but his colleagues never succeeded in taking advantage of them. Robinson worked tremendously hard, right through, and his speed and dash worried the opposing defence endlessly. The Artillerymen's custodian was severely tried on two occasions in the opening exchanges, but these efforts only partially redeemed the several openings that were thrown away. The gunners were soon into their stride, and a long low centre from the right was rushed over the goal line by Swan. This led the gunners maintained to the end. Youngman in the second half ran clean through and had only Goldenberg (in the Club's goal) to beat when he overran the ball and Dickie cleared his lines. The soldiers' keeper had to fit away several times, and once Stewart nearly caught him out of his charge. The Club halves seemed too much inclined to hang back on the opposing forwards, and after a Club attack had been repelled there frequently became noticeable a wide gap in the fold through the halves failing to follow up.

A certain amount of improvement in the display of both teams could be detected as the game drew to its close, but the exchanges were by no means exciting. It is to be hoped that when the Club meet the R.E. in a League match next Saturday they will be able to field a representative eleven. It will be an interesting prelude to the Shield final on the 25th March.

R.E. AND SHROPSHIRE DRAW.

The leaders of the Hongkong League had as their opponents on Saturday the team nearest in order of precedence, the Royal Engineers, and a fine struggle resulted. A win for the Territorials would have placed them in an almost unassailable position for the Championship, while their defeat would have rendered the matter extremely open. However, neither side managed to score. The Engineers bemoan the loss of a rare opportunity in the shape of a penalty, given for hands, Scott took the kick, but bungled straight at the custodian, who cleared. The Royal Artillery are now also in the running for the cup.

HONGKONG LEAGUE, DIVISION II.

The junior league is being gradually wound up. There is a regrettable tendency on the part of one or two sides, however, not to fulfil their fixtures. When the Kowloon Dock Juniors took the field a representative of their opponents (Is-lamies) informed them that the latter could not raise a team.

The game between the Confucians and the Diocesan School was amusing rather than exciting. The School were much the better combination, but the Chinese boys defeated them by two goals to one. The Confucians scored first through Au Kit Sang, who ran through on his own and took the fullest advantage of a misunderstanding between the Diocesan backs and the keeper. The School equalised through Abbas, and in the second half Au Kit Sang slipped the backs and put the Confucians ahead again.

The Shropshires second string bagged the brace at stake in their match with St. Joseph's College, by a margin of four goals to one.

HONGKONG LEAGUE.

DIVISION I. TABLE TO DATE.

Club	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
K.S.L.	7	3	0	4	9	4	10
R.E.	7	3	2	2	4	4	8
Hongkong F.C.	6	3	2	1	4	4	8
K.S.L. I. Res.	10	6	3	1	21	14	13
Navy	6	1	5	0	4	9	2

HONGKONG LEAGUE.

DIVISION II. TABLE TO DATE.

Club	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
88th Company	10	10	0	0	29	2	2
Staff and Depts.	11	9	2	0	23	11	18
83rd Company	10	6	3	1	12	11	13
K.S.L. I. Res.	10	6	3	1	21	14	13
87th Company	9	4	3	2	20	16	10
Belcher	11	4	5	2	16	14	10
Is-lamies	9	4	4	1	9	17	9
Lam Liang	8	3	3	2	18	11	8
St. Joseph's	10	4	6	0	10	15	8
Kowloon Dock	7	2	3	2	7	13	6
Confucians	10	2	6	2	9	21	6
University	8	1	5	2	7	17	4
Diocesan School	10	0	10	0	6	46	0

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

COMMODORE'S CUPS.

The races of the various classes connected with the above Club were sailed off on Saturday in very boisterous weather, which was the cause of no less than six casualties.

HANDICAP CLASS.

Only two yachts of this class finished, *Pathetic* gave up early in the race, and *Pine*, when in a very good position to win, sprang aloft, and had to make for her anchorage attended by a police patrol launch. This yacht was sailed by Miss Iris May, to whom great credit is due for her plucky yachtmanship. The *Colleen* saved her time on the *Rona* by 1min. 20secs, and thus takes the cup.

ONE-DESIGN CLASS.

Only the *Daphne* finished in this class, the *Atlas* and *Bonita* having to give up through tearing their sails, and the *Halcyon* through her mast being carried away.

KEYWARD-HAYS AND GAIL CLASS.

Two boats finished in this class, *Tobinette* winning the cup on level terms from *White Rose*.

CRUISER CLASS.

The boats in this class got away to an excellent start in a fine sailing breeze, and carried on in close company to Kowloon, where the wind lightened, and from this point round Adamastor Rock the race became very open. In fact so much so, that only one boat of the Chinese-rig finished within the time-limit—6.30 p.m.—this being the *Alranda*, the scratch boat, which takes the cup. The race for the English-rig will be re-sailed, probably next Saturday.

As the result of the Eclectic Competition at Shanghai Golf Club the sum of \$200 has been presented to Mrs. H. E. Campbell for her bandage fund. Some 440 cards were taken out, a cup having been presented by the Shanghai Ladies' Golf Club. Capt. E. I. M. Barrett was the winner.

COMPANY REPORT.

SHANGHAI LAND INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

The report of the directors for presentation at the twenty-seventh annual general meeting of shareholders, to be held to-morrow, states that the working account for 1915 has a credit balance of Tls. 460,314.02 as compared with Tls. 470,000.48 for 1914. Gross rents are increased by Tls. 29,365.98. Running expenses by Tls. 13,274.29, leaving a net increase in rents of Tls. 16,091.69. Interest account is again reduced by Tls. 20,693.72. The increase in running expenses is partly due to the increase in the Company's developed properties, but more particularly to the damage caused by burst water pipes during the exceptional spell of cold weather early in the year.

The reserve fund remains at Tls. 1,523,054.72.

The reserve fund for equalization of dividends is increased to Tls. 200,000 by the addition of Tls. 50,000 passed to that account at the last annual general meeting. Improvements and renewals account has been credited with Tls. 53,372 being interest on undeveloped land for last year and debited with Tls. 39,185.71 being the cost of various renewals and improvements carried out during the year.

Profit and loss account shows the net profits on sales of property, Tls. 277,470.48; premia on debentures, Tls. 4,016, as against Tls. 11,422 last year, and on the debit side the transfers authorised at the last meeting. The balance of Tls. 565,510.38 the directors recommended for appropriation as follows:—

To pay a final dividend of 6 per cent. (making 12 per cent. for the year)	Tls. 234,000.00
To pay a bonus of Tl. 1 per share (2 per cent.)	78,000.00
Transfer to improvements and renewals account	53,367.02
Transfer to equalization of dividend account	150,000.00
Carry forward to new account	46,642.36
	Tls. 565,510.38

Capital account.—The total book costs of estates is Tls. 3,311,487.66 as compared with Tls. 7,947,998.48 last year. Sundry mortgage loans show a decrease of Tls. 404,215.13.

COMPANY MEETING.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LTD.

The Hongkong branch of the Yokohama Specie Bank is in receipt of a telegram from the head office to the effect that, at the half-yearly meeting of shareholders held at Yokohama on the 10th inst., it was resolved to pay a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. for the half-year ended the 31st December, 1915; to add to the reserve fund Yen 400,000; and to carry forward the sum of Yen 1,336,000 to the next account.

SUPPOSED MURDER AT WONG-NEI-CHONG GAP.

BODY FOUND IN A STREAM.

Some planters who were working on the east side of the Wong-nei-chong Road on Friday discovered the body of a Chinese in a stream above the Bowen Road, and the body bore evidence of a most brutal murder having been committed. The planters at once communicated with the police, and P.S. Aris was sent to investigate. He discovered that the body in the stream was that of a Chinese male, the throat had been cut, and there were also five stabs on the body, the deceased having apparently been foully murdered. The body was then placed in the stream. On the clothing was found a metal watch and the key of a room in the Ming Lee boarding-house, 119, Connaught Road Central. The police are conducting enquiries, but up to yesterday no arrest had been made.

SHELLS FOUND IN A GERMAN GARDEN AT SHANGHAI.

REMINISCENCE OF THE INDIAN "MEDICINE" CASE.

As briefly announced by cable, the French police at Shanghai discovered eight cases, each containing 25 shells, on property in the occupation of a German, whose name was prominently connected with an arms case tried before the Mixed Court in October last on the 4th inst.

Situated on the French Sicauei Road, quite close to the creek bearing the same name, there stood, until a fortnight ago, a house in large grounds known as the "Otto Meuser" gardens (says the *N.C. Daily News*). The address is 44, Sicauei Road, in the French Concession. Over a month ago there was an outbreak of fire at this house, which was occupied by Mr. A. Nielsen, with whom was residing an Australian employe of the Shanghai Municipal Council. The fire, despite the attentions of the Fire Brigade, destroyed the house, but nothing suspicious was noticed at the time. The company with whom the French Police to make inquiries into the fire, which they did, and as a result discovered the ammunition. In addition to inspecting the house a thorough examination of the grounds was made, in the course of which, one pond, of a number, came in for some attention.

It was here that an officer, probing with a stick, found some hard substance submerged, and cooies, sent in to fetch it out, brought back with them a fair-sized iron-bound box, which was eventually followed by seven others. Examination of the contents showed that each box contained twenty-five shells, brass cartridge and projectile. The projectile is solid, which indicates its use for naval purposes, and is similar save that it is somewhat larger, to that fired into the Settlement during the seizure of the Chinese cruiser *Chaofo*.

Mr. Nielsen, who was present during the search and at the discovery, denied that he knew anything about the shells and expressed surprise that they should be found there. There have been many suggestions as to the ultimate use of the shells, which are clearly only suitable for armour piercing and the like, but the most significant is that the gun in which such ammunition could be used would be eminently suitable for arming merchantment. At all events it is unlikely that such shell would be where it was unless there was some hope of eventually using it in guns, which would be more or less accessible to the owners of the ammunition, and the discovery seems to point to some foundation in fact for the various rumours that have at times been circulated as to the existence of such weapons.

The ammunition found was of two kinds. Six of the cases contained shells without fuses of any kind and the balance of two contained shells with fuses at the nose.

In the course of their investigations the French Police interrogated the chief gardener employed in the grounds. He lives off the premises and denied all knowledge of the existence of the shells. He stated, however, that many times he had seen Nielsen with the aid of Chinese boys entering and taking out of the house such cases, but apart from that, he knew nothing of the matter.

The *Deutsche Zeitung* has been quoted as alleging that the fact that the shells are of French manufacture—Hotchkiss—was an indication that the discovery of the arms was in the nature of a "plant" by the French. How slender a basis the suggestion has may be seen from the fact that according to the *Hor. List* for 1915 H. M. Schultz & Co. are described as the agents for "Hotchkiss & Co., Paris, Machine Guns, Motor Cars."

It is alleged in certain quarters that Nielsen endeavoured to charter a small Japanese boat, the *Shi Gen Maru*, 970 tons, which arrived in Shanghai on September 30th of last year. The boat is stated to have been destined for the transport of arms and munitions to India and elsewhere. It will be remembered in this connection that the Germans chartered, in like circumstances at Shanghai, another small Japanese steamer, the *Tro Maru*, which was seized on the high seas off Cap Saint-Jacques, with a suspicious cargo on board. On that occasion one of the passengers on the steamer was none other than the German ex-consul for Mukden.

It is a significant fact that certain incidents, connected with the trouble of December 6th, took place in the vicinity of Nielsen's house near where a large number of coolies were concentrated, and it is stated that ever since the French Police have maintained extra vigilance in this quarter. A suggestion has been made that Nielsen, rendered uneasy by a turn of events which prevented the clandestine transference of the articles he had in his possession, endeavoured to get rid of his compromising possessions by throwing them into the pond. The Police have effected the arrest, on a charge the nature of which has not yet been made public, of a woman with whom Nielsen is alleged to have been on friendly terms.

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

JUST RECEIVED:

ANGLO-ORIENT

SEAMLESS REVERSIBLE

CARPETS AND RUGS.

TWO WEARING SURFACES INSTEAD OF ONE IN CHARMING COLOURINGS AND DESIGNS.

THEY ARE OF

BRITISH MANUFACTURE

BOTH

DURABLE AND INEXPENSIVE.

WE HAVE THEM IN

SQUARES 3 by 2½, 3 by 3 and 3 by 4 Yards.

AND

CORRIDOR, HEARTH, SOFA,

AND BEDSIDE RUGS.

COLOURED LITHOS ON APPLICATION.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

HONGKONG, CANTON, MACAO & WEST RIVER STEAMERS.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., AND CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

Single Fare by Night Steamer	...	...	...	...	...	\$6.00
Return " " (available also for return by day steamer)	...	...	...	...	...	10.00
Single Fare by Day Steamer	...	...	...	...	...	4.00
Return " " " " " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	8.00

HONGKONG TO CANTON. 1 CANTON TO HONGKONG.

MONDAY, 13th MARCH, 1916.		TUESDAY, 14th MARCH, 1916.	
6.00 a.m. FATSHAN.	8.00 a.m. HONAM.	8.00 a.m. KINSHAN.	8.00 a.m. FATSHAN.
10.00 p.m. HONAM.	4.30 p.m. KINSHAN.	10.00 p.m. KINSHAN.	4.30 p.m. HONAM.

HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

S.S. SUI TAI, Tons 1,651. S.S. FAISHAN, Tons 2,004.

HONGKONG TO MACAO. Week days at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf, Sundays at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

MACAO TO HONGKONG. Week days at 7.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sundays at 7.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

EXCURSION TO MACAO.

SUNDAY, 19th MARCH, 1916. The Company's New Steamship "TAISHAN"

Will depart from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf at 8 a.m., and return from Macao at 7 p.m.

N.B.—The Company will also run a Steamer from Macao on Sunday at 7.30 a.m., and from Hongkong at 1 p.m., from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf. This Steamer connects with the Excursion Steamer returning from Macao at 7 p.m.

FARES AS USUAL.

MACAO-CANTON LINE.

S.S. SUI AN. Departures from Macao to Canton on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 8 p.m. Departures from Canton to Macao on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 4.30 p.m.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD., AND THE INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

CANTON-WUCHOW LINE.

S.S. SAINAM, 588 tons, and S.S. NANNING, 569 tons. One of the above Steamers leaves Canton for Wuchow every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at about 8 a.m., and the other leaves Wuchow for Canton on the same days at 8.30 a.m. Round trips take about 5 days. Passengers can return to Hongkong or vice versa by the Company's direct Steamers LINTAN and SANZU. These vessels have superior Cabin accommodation and are lighted throughout by electricity. Electric Fan in each Cabin. Booking Office open daily (Sundays excepted) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the—

HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., Hotel Mansions (First Floor), opposite the Blake Pier.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NO LET.

FURNISHED HOUSE, Seven Living Rooms, etc., with Garden. Apply—**CHORUM MESSIAH SOCIETY**, 90, Bonham Road, Hongkong, 13th March, 1916. [405]

WANTED.

A PORTUGUESE BOOKKEEPER; must be a Competent Man, write a good hand, especially quick at Figures. Age about 30. Only an experienced man need apply—**"U. K."** Care of "Daily Press" Office, Hongkong, 13th March, 1916. [406]

FOR SALE.

ONE SET VERTICAL MARINE ENGINES, with three cylinders of 15 inches, 24 inches and 40 inches diameter, with Condenser and Pumps, complete. Also three big directing boxes, one reducing valve, two discharge valves, one timing safety valve, one steam distributing valve, with valves, one bulkhead flange for shaft, one main injection valve, and one spare condenser door, all having been formerly used in connection with the aforesaid engines. Built in 1904 and been in use only 14 months.

1,383 lbs.—Self-igniting Steel
1,377 lbs.—L. A. Turning Steel.
920 lbs.—Oval Cast Steel.
2,890 lbs.—Round Punching or Turning Steel.

Open to Offers.

For further particulars, Apply to

GEO. P. LAMBERT,
4, Duddell Street,
Hongkong, March 13th, 1916. [411]

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COLONIAL (Hongkong) REGISTER of the Company will be closed from TUESDAY, 21st March, 1916, to WEDNESDAY, 30th April, 1916, both days INCLUSIVE. By Order of the Board of Directors, **W. E. ROBERTS**, Secretary.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1916. [407]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

THE 32ND ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, Chater Road, Victoria, on SATURDAY, the 26th March, 1916, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and for the election of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1915, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be closed from MONDAY, the 20th March, to SATURDAY, the 25th March, 1916, both days inclusive. **SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.**, General Managers.

Hongkong, 11th March, 1916. [408]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LTD., will be held at St. George's Building, Chater Road, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 26th day of March, 1916, at 11.45 o'clock in the forenoon, when the Subjoined Extraordinary Resolution will be proposed:

That the Articles of Association of the Company be altered in manner following:—

(a) That after the word "Company" in the 18th line of Article 110 the following words shall be added:—

"The General Managers may also, with the consent of the Consulting Committee pay such bonus or bonuses as the General Managers shall think fit."

(b) That the words "Bonus or Bonuses" shall be inserted immediately after the word "Dividend" in the 8th line of Article 110.

(c) That the words "and bonuses" shall be inserted immediately after the word "Dividend" in the first line of Article 115.

Should the above Resolution be passed by the requisite majority, it will be submitted for confirmation as a Special Resolution to a further Extraordinary General Meeting which will be subsequently convened.

Dated this 11th day of March, 1916. **SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.**, General Managers. [409]

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

S.S. "FUSHIMI MARU."

CONSIGNEES of Cargo per this Company's s.s. "FUSHIMI MARU" are hereby informed that the said steamer on her voyage from London, arrived at Gravesend on the 21st January last and was afterwards reloaded. The expenditure incurred in this connection is now to form a subject of General Average contribution, and Consignees are, therefore, requested to call at the NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA Office to sign the Average Bond as well as to send in "Pro Forma Account Sales" of their goods in duplicate, duly signed, before the Bill of Lading can be countersigned by the NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA for delivery on arrival of the said ship here on MONDAY, the 13th March, 1916.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA,
T. KUSUMOTO,
Manager.
Hongkong, 11th March, 1916. [410]

PUBLIC NOTICE.

THE Undersigned hereby gives Notice that it has opened an Office at No. 13, Nanking Road, Shanghai, as a Branch of **WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY** of New York, and will conduct its Telephone and Electrical Supply business in China henceforth from the Shanghai Office.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **ARNOLD KARBURG & Co.** are no longer Agents for **WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY**, as from December 8th, 1915.

WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY, [374]

PUBLIC COMPANIES

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD.

THE THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Offices of the General Managers at 11.30 A.M. on TUESDAY, the 28th instant, to receive a Statement of the Company's Accounts to 31st December, 1915, and the Report of the General Managers.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be closed from the 14th to the 23rd instant, both days inclusive. **JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.**, General Managers.
Hongkong, 8th March, 1916. [393]

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FORTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Offices of the General Managers at Noon on TUESDAY, the 28th instant. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be closed from the 14th to the 23rd instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Managers.
HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.,
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1916. [376]

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents, Pedder's Street, on WEDNESDAY, the 29th March, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1915.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be closed from the 14th to the 23rd March, both days inclusive. **JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.**, General Agents.
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1916. [368]

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTIETH YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the HONGKONG CLUB will be held in the Club House, on MONDAY, the 27th March, 1916, at 5.30 P.M.

By Order, **E. DES VŒUX**, Secretary.
Hongkong, 10th March, 1916. [400]

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE TWENTY-NINTH HALF-YEARLY DRAWING of 65 DEBENTURES (1896 issue) of the HONGKONG CLUB, Payable on FRIDAY, the 31st March, 1916, will be held in the Club House at 11 o'clock A.M., on FRIDAY, the 24th March, 1916.

Bearers of Debentures are invited to attend the Drawing. By Order, **E. DES VŒUX**, Secretary.
Hongkong, 10th March, 1916. [401]

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

WE have This Day REMOVED Our Offices and Show-rooms from the First Floor to the Second Floor of 10 Des Vœux Road Central, (Above the Robinson Piano Company).

MOW FUNG & Co.
Hongkong, 1st March, 1916. [360]

FOR SALE.

RICHMOND HOUSE, No. 145, Barker Road, Also, "DUNOTTAR," No. 31, Aberdeen Road. **HASTINGS & HASTINGS**, Solicitors.
Hongkong, 3rd March, 1916. [371]

TO LET.

OFFICES, 5, Duddell Street, now in occupation of Messrs. Radecar & Co. Apply—**THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AGENCY CO., LTD.**
Hongkong, 17th February, 1916. [385]

TO LET.

GODOWN, No. 6, Duddell Street, now in occupation of Messrs. Radecar & Co. Apply—**A. B. AYASIA**, Care of E. PARANET, No. 1, Duddell Street.
Hongkong, 2nd February, 1916. [383]

TO LET.

NO. 5, MOUNTAIN VIEW, PEAK.
No. 141, Wanchai Road, Large and Spacious Godown.
"SHORNCLEIFFE," Garden Road, to let. Furnished, 6 Rooms.
"GLENNIFFER," 3, Hankow Road, Kowloon.
"BILANDONAN," No. 5, Des Vœux Villas, No. 54, THE PEAK, Fully Furnished, including Piano. From 1st May to 30th November.
"WOODBURY," No. 4, Hankow Road, Kowloon, from 1st May, 1916.
No. 2, ZETLAND STREET.
No. 25, ST. JAMES STREET.
No. 25, EYMOUR ROAD, WOODLANDS VILLA WEST.
No. 68, PEEL STREET, on Caine Road level.
"GLENSHIEL," No. 141, Plantation Road, Peak, from 1st November, 1915.
"HARTING," Austin Road, Kowloon.
"ROSENEATH," 3, Hankow Rd., Kowloon.
No. 6, BELLILLO TERRACE, with entrance on Cosdon Road.
ONE GODOWN, No. 8 Barrows Street, Wanchai.
TWO GODOWNS, in Duddell Street.
No. 5, DES VŒUX VILLAS, 61, PEAK (Unfurnished).
No. 55, THE PEAK (CAMERON VILLAS).
Apply to—**LIVESTRAD & DAVID**, 8th Floor, Alexandra Building.
Hongkong, 18th February, 1916. [35]

TO LET.

RAVENSHILL EAST, Park Road, containing 6 Rooms, 3 Bath Rooms, Servants' Quarters, &c. Vacant 1st November. Apply—**DEACON, LOCKER, DEACON & HOBBS**.
Hongkong, 19th October, 1915. [390]

TO LET.

TWO ROOMED-FLATS in Nathan Road, Kowloon.
"THREE ROOMED-FLATS" in Humphrey's Building, Kowloon.
"FOUR ROOMED-FLATS" in May Road, with every modern convenience, including English Baths and Kitchen Ranges, Hot Water and Water Carriage System. A few flats specially designed to accommodate three bachelors at reasonable rentals. Immediate possession.
"FOUR ROOMED HOUSES" in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon.
Apply to—**HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., LTD.**
Alexandra Building.
Hongkong, 29th December, 1915. [277]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road.
"OFFICES" in King's Buildings.
"OFFICES" in Des Vœux Road Central.
"ROOMS" in CLIFTON GARDENS, Connaught Road.
"NEW HOUSES" in Broadwood Terrace, HOUSES at the Peak.
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Nos. 1, 2 and 3, WEST END TERRACE, CANTON.
Apply—**THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AGENCY CO., LTD.**
Hongkong, 4th November 1915. [32]

TO LET.

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From Mid-April, 1916.
CRAIGMIN EAST, 189, PEAK. Moderate rent. Year or longer.
Apply—**T. K. DEALY**, Craigmin East, or Queen's College.
Hongkong, 10th March, 1916. [399]

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NO. 1, TOGO TERRACE, Kennedy Road. Apply—**LI FUK TSAU**, Care of Messrs. WILKINSON & GRIST, 2, Queen's Road Central.
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FURNISHED, No. 3, Mountain View. Apply—**H. E. POLLOCK**, Prince's Buildings.
Hongkong, 24th February, 1916. [333]

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NO. 5, MORRISON HILL, 6-Roomed House, 4 Bedrooms and 4 Bathrooms. Vacant from 1st March. Apply—**HARRY WICKING & Co.**
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Alexandra Building.
Hongkong, 26th January, 1916. [206]

TO LET.

NO. 11, GAGE STREET, immediate possession. Apply to—**J. VINCENT BRAGA**, Tokyo Kinsha.
Hongkong, 16th November, 1915. [100]

TO LET.

RAVENSHILL EAST, Park Road, containing 6 Rooms, 3 Bath Rooms, Servants' Quarters, &c. Vacant 1st November. Apply—**DEACON, LOCKER, DEACON & HOBBS**.
Hongkong, 19th October, 1915. [390]

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INTIMATION

WATSON'S

FINEST OLD

BROWN

BRANDY

E

QUALITY.



25 YEARS IN WOOD.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

HONGKONG.

TELEPHONE No. 616.

MARRIAGES.

BLATCHFORD-McKAY.—At the Union Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. C. E. Darwent, on March 4th, **HENRY JOHN BLATCHFORD**, second son of Mr. and Mrs. JOHN BLATCHFORD, Bournemouth, England, to **ETHEL EUPHEMIA FLORENCE McKAY**, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. DONALD McKAY, of Shanghai.

GRAY-JEFFREY.—At H. B. M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, on March 4th, **CHARLES NORMAN**, son of **WILLIAM LEWIS GRAY**, of Hounslow, Middlesex, to **ELLEN LOUISE**, daughter of the late **THOMAS JEFFREY**, of Battle, Sussex.

DEATH.

JACKSON.—At the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, on March 4

THE WAR.

FURTHER FIGHTING AT VERDUN.

TERRIBLE GERMAN LOSSES.

ITALIANS ON THE OFFENSIVE.

PORTUGAL AND GERMANY.

GERMAN INFLUENCE IN MEXICAN REBELLION.

DEALING WITH FREIGHTS.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

MORE LIVELY FIGHTING BEFORE VERDUN. REPEATED GERMAN ATTACKS AT VAUX.

PARIS, March 11th.
5.10 p.m.

To-day's communiqué says:—Northward of the Aisne, after several hours' bombardment, the enemy debouched from Ville au Bois and attacked our salient at Bois de Butte. After lively fighting we ejected the enemy from a portion of the wood which he had succeeded in occupying. Westward of the Meuse the Germans made a strong night attack on our trenches on the Bettincourt (1 Bethincourt) and Chateauvert road. An immediate counter-attack gave us complete possession of an important communication trench which the Germans had penetrated.

East of the Meuse, between the village of Vaux and Fort de Vaux Ridge, there was a heavy bombardment right through the night. There were repeated infantry attacks on the ruined village. The enemy captured some of the houses in the eastern portion, but we still hold the western portion, against which all his efforts failed. As the result of several attacks on the Fort de Vaux Ridge the enemy made some progress on the slopes, but our fire broke all his efforts to reach the entanglements in front of the fort.

An intense bombardment continues in the district of Eix and Moulainville. Our artillery in Lorraine severely damaged the enemy's works near Emborment.

TERRIBLE GERMAN LOSSES. CLOSE FORMATIONS MARCH ON ARTILLERY AND MACHINE GUNS.

PARIS, March 12th.
9.00 a.m.

A communiqué states:—Left of the Meuse the opposing artillery were less active. The bombardment on the right bank has continued being intense in the region west of Douaumont. It was slower in the remainder of the sector and at Woivre. The enemy has not attempted an infantry attack on the whole of our front.

Fresh reports confirm the terrible German losses in their fruitless assaults west of Douaumont on Friday. The Germans thrice attacked in column of four, and were mown down by artillery and machine-guns. They then retired, leaving the ground covered with corpses.

A French aeroplane in the Douaumont region brought down a Fokker, which fell in flames in the German lines.

SATISFACTORY MINING.

PARIS, March 12th.
3.50 a.m.

A communiqué states:—We exploded three mines east of Vermelles with satisfactory results. The artillery on both sides have been active about Albert, Hurluch and Ypres.

NAVAL ACTIVITIES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

NORWEGIAN BARQUE TORPEDOED.

AMERICANS ABOARD.

WASHINGTON, March 11th.

The American Consul at Havre reports that seven Americans have been rescued from the Norwegian barque *Situs*, which was torpedoed without warning on the 9th inst.

AMERICA TAKES SERIOUS VIEW. WASHINGTON, March 12th. State Department officials view the attack on the *Situs* seriously, and await full information. If the barque was torpedoed as described, the act will be regarded as contrary to the assurances received from Austria and Germany.

FRENCH LINER SUNK.

HAVRE, March 12th.

The French liner *Louise* has been sunk.

ITALIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ITALIAN OFFENSIVE CONTINUED.

DESPITE SNOWFALLS AND AVALANCHES.

Rome, March 11th.

A communiqué states that snowfalls and avalanches in the mountains, along with torrential rains and inundations on the plain, have not prevented the Italians continuing their offensive at various points, causing the enemy to send large forces into the trenches, which were then effectively shelled.

RUSSIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GREAT ENEMY LOSSES.

PETROGRAD, March 11th.

A communiqué states that an attack by considerable enemy forces east of Kostoff, on the Upper Strypa, was repulsed with great enemy losses.

GENERAL.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

MORE MARRIED MEN TO BE CALLED UP.

LONDON, March 12th.

It is stated that a Proclamation calling up married men from twenty-seven to thirty-five years of age will be posted on the 17th inst.

NON-COMBATANT CORPS.

DEALING WITH CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.

LONDON, March 12th.

The formation of a Non-combatant Corps is announced. It is opined that this is designed to meet the case of conscientious objectors enlisted through the Tribunals. They will probably be employed in trench digging, as burial parties and in similar duties.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

PORTUGAL AND GERMANY.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECLARATION OF WAR.

LONDON, March 12th.

The papers emphasize the significance of Germany's declaration of war against Portugal, and its bearing on East Africa, where the Germans are now completely hemmed in.

LISBON, March 12th.

It is expected that the Government will make a statement to Parliament regarding Portuguese relations with Germany, and then collectively resign.

The German Minister and the staff of the Legation have gone to Madrid.

Reuter learns that Germany's action is purely provocative, as Portugal was legally entitled to requisition ships which were so long immobilised. Moreover, Portugal's action does not violate the Commercial Treaty as the vessels were not in transit.

Congress, on the motion of the Premier, have agreed to form a National Ministry.

THE MEXICAN REBELLION.

A GERMAN STREAK.

NEW YORK, March 12th.

It is expected that General Funston will command an expedition to Mexico consisting of 5,000 men.

The Government will act cautiously, as it is believed that Villa's defiance of the United States has been prompted by the Germans, and that Mexico, in the event of hostilities, will become the recruiting ground for bellicose American-Germans.

AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

WASHINGTON, March 12th.

The White House announces that an adequate force will be immediately sent to capture Villa, but that they will scrupulously respect the sovereignty of Mexico.

Carranza has expressed regret at the Columbus outrage.

RANCH RAIDED.

DOUGLAS, March 12th.

Two hundred Villistas raided a ranch at Osborne Junction, killing an American and stealing cattle. Six squadrons of cavalry are ready to pursue Villa.

MR. WINSTONE CHURCHILL.

RETURNING TO COMMONS.

LONDON, March 12th.

The *Daily Express* states that Mr. Winstone Churchill has decided to return to the House of Commons, hoping to lead the new opposition.

EAST HERTS BY-ELECTION.

A SURPRISE RESULT.

LONDON, March 12th.

The papers agree that Mr. Pemberton Billing's election as an Independent candidate for East Herts is most surprising.

The *Daily Mail*, which supported his candidature, declares that the Government Whips are perturbed at the result, which shows that "the people cannot be permanently chloroformed." The same paper says that as Mr. Billing is an Independent candidate he will not receive the support of the Party Whips, but he will find plenty of support from both the Unionist and Liberal War Committees.

The *Daily News* regards Mr. Billing's return with disquietude, as showing that the battle with the liquor interests is in no-wise ended. It says that the publicans voted solidly against the Coalition candidate.

ITALIAN POLITICS.

DISSATISFACTION WITH PREMIER.

LONDON, March 12th.

A telegram from Milan states that there is dissatisfaction with Signor Salandra, the Premier, and a desire for a more representative Cabinet is growing.

Signor Bissolati is indicated as the new Premier.

If he accepts it will mean a closer union between Italy and the Allies, and a declaration of war against Germany.

FRENCH MINISTER INDISPOSED.

PARIS, March 12th.

M. Clémenceau, Minister of Defence, is ill.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

DEALING WITH FREIGHTS.

ALLIED CENTRALISATION OFFICE.

PARIS, March 12th.

In the Chamber, the Minister of Marine announced that the question of freights was on the road to a settlement by France, Great Britain and Italy, which were considering the establishment of an office for the centralisation of the freight requirements of the Allies.

"NELLORE" AGAIN AFIRE.

LONDON, March 12th.

The fire on the *Nellore* has re-appeared in number two hold. The vessel is still discharging.

NEW UNDER-SECRETARY FOR COLONIES.

LONDON, March 11th.

Sir George Vandeleur Fiddes, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.M.G., has been appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

[Sir George Fiddes has been Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies since 1909.]

ARMY APPOINTMENT.

LONDON, March 12th.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Percy Sykes has been gazetted temporary Brigadier General.

NEW PRIVY COUNCILLOR.

LONDON, March 12th.

The Hon. Mr. Hughes, Premier of Australia, has been made a Privy Councillor.

[Telegrams received on Saturday, and published in an "Extra" on Sunday, will be found on page 6.]

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE CITIZENS' CONVENTION.

PEKING, March 10th.

The Bureau that had charge of the preparations for the Citizens' Convention has issued an official notice stating that the preparations for the election were proceeded with in strict accordance with the law and denying the charge of pre-arrangement.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN SHANSI.

A Mandate authorises the appropriation of \$50,000 for the relief of the districts of Shansi which suffered from drought and floods and later from looting by bandits.

REWARDS FOR VICTORIOUS GENERALS.

A Mandate announces Government victories in the South and confers the Order of Merit on Chang Chin-yao and Hsiang Hsiang-sheng.

Feng Yu-shiang, the victorious General at Suifu is made a Baron and the rewards for the troops have been authorised. Tsai Ao's property in Hunan has been confiscated.

A NEW RAILWAY.

The completion of the Changsha-Yichow railway is to be accelerated for military requirements. It will be opened in a fortnight.

SINGLE MEN AND COMPULSION.

GROUP SYSTEM TO END.

The War Office issued the following communication last month:—

With regard to the Military Service Act, it should be realised that the groups for single men under the Derby scheme will close on March 2nd, 1919, as after that date all such men liable for service are brought automatically into the Army Reserve by the operation of the Act.

Men coming under the Act will be classified according to age in "classes," as the attested men were in "groups," and commencing on March 3rd, "classes" will be called up corresponding with the groups that have been called up. The reason for calling them "classes" is simply for administrative purposes, to avoid confusion. They are as follows:—

Year of Birth.	Class.	Year of Birth.	Class.
1887	1	1894	12
1888	2	1895	13
1889	3	1896	14
1890	4	1897	15
1891	5	1898	16
1892	6	1899	17
1893	7	1900	18
1894	8	1901	19
1895	9	1902	20
1896	10	1903	21
1897	11	1904	22
1898	12	1905	23

PEKING NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, March 2nd.

THE REVOLUTION.

While it has to be conceded that the revolution in the South has not been confined to its place of origin, but has spread into three other provinces, there seems to be no decline in the confidence expressed in the north that the Government will ultimately succeed in suppressing the rising. Long views are entertained, but at the same time one cannot resist the feeling that the authorities are anxious to propitiate rather than to fight the rebels. I have heard it said that the armies which are opposing each other are not too eager to get to close quarters. One explanation offered is that when a loyalist army reaches the vicinity of a rebel host the latter dispatches a delegate to treat with the northerners. He is instructed to remind them that they are brothers, and to point out that the revolutionists are fighting for the people of China, while their opponents are fighting for one man. Furthermore, the delegate suggests that as they are brothers they should not kill each other if they remain in opposite camps, but fire their rifles in the air during the progress of a battle! Of course, I do not offer this explanation as official, but it is one which is accepted by many Chinese. Certainly the reports of "sanguinary battles," in which three men are killed and ten rifles captured, lend some colour to this theory. Up to the present the official reports are largely apologetic, recounting how government troops went out to meet the enemy, fought bravely for some time against great odds, and finding themselves outnumbered, retired or had to withdraw to certain positions to wait for reinforcements. Government victories have undoubtedly been won, but they are not at all substantial, and great deeds have yet to be achieved before the rebels can be considered as defeated. Needless to say, all the probabilities lie with the Government, but their task is greater than when they commenced it.

GENERAL FENG.

Much comment is associated with General Feng Kuo Chang, who has asked and been granted sick leave. Some suggest that he is in sympathy with the rebels and would gladly relinquish his post in order to be nearer his friends, but there are good reasons, apart from loyalty, which should induce Feng to refrain from active association with the anti-Yuanites. These reasons are knowledge of the power of the President and knowledge of the weakness of the rebels.

PARLIAMENT-MAKING.

May Day will be celebrated in China with the inauguration of a Parliament. The electoral machinery for the election of the Citizens' Convention is (happy thought!) to be utilised for the election of the Li Fa Yuan. This idea was embodied in a dispatch sent from the Government last Friday to the Tsan Chen Yuan, which met the following day under the presidency of Prince Pu Lun and discussed the Bill framed to accomplish the proposed change in a constitutional manner. Notwithstanding its importance, it was deliberated upon and passed within half-an-hour—a proceeding which shows that the talko-talko business can on occasions be dispensed with. Not only was the Bill passed, but the reply was drafted the same day and forwarded to the Chen Shih Tang, which issued a dispatch next day announcing that the first day of May had been selected for the convocation of the Li Fa Yuan, it being explained that the inaugural session was exceptional and that, ordinarily, the Li Fa Yuan would assemble in September and sit till the end of the year. Thus we see the beginnings of that long-promised wider popular participation in the government of the country.

THE LONG WINTER.

Though the crows have commenced building their nests and trees are being pruned, though there is a suggestion of green and a suspicion of blossom here and there, it is difficult to realise that spring has officially come. King Frost has not yet relaxed his icy grip, and the cold north winds are searching and uncomfortable. Yet, while complaining of the cold we have to concede that the winter has not been so severe as it might have been. Infectious disease is rampant, and the cemetery outside the East Gate, where unknown children are buried, is said to be overcrowded. Fever is particularly rife. Though skating is still enjoyed, it is felt that the ice may go any day. Consequently no more ice hockey is being played. Thoughts are turning instead to lawn-tennis and golf. The Austrian marines have developed an interest in football, and may be seen daily kicking a ball about on the Glacis.

GERMAN FLEET'S GALLER PLAY.

STEAMS INSIDE OWN MINES, BUT AFFRAID TO COME OUTSIDE.

An official of the British Admiralty, who arrived at New York on January 13th, with despatches from London, brought news that the German battleship fleet left its anchorage in the Kiel Canal, where it had been since the beginning of the war, and made three sorties on December 15th, 16th, and 17th. The fleet did not succeed in finding the British North Sea fleet because they kept along the coast by the mouth of the Elbe and through the Bight of Heligoland, and did not venture outside the lines of mines that had been laid down by them.

"The British battleships cannot go inside Heligoland," the official said, "because of the mines and submarines and the shoals, which render navigation inside the Bight and along the shore very dangerous."

In explanation of the German manoeuvre, the official said:—

"The real food riots at Berlin and other cities in Germany early in December and the feeling among the people have grown so strong over the British blockade that the naval vessels were forced to leave the Kiel Canal and make a pretence of searching for our warships."

The blockade is going to be drawn tighter than ever now in an endeavour to cut off the enemy's food supply, and we expect that the Kaiser's fleet will be compelled to steam out past Heligoland into the North Sea. Then the biggest naval battle in the world's history will take place.

"Our North Sea fleet is keeping a bright look-out day and night for the Germans to come out. It has mother ships with eight and ten hydro-aeroplanes on board which are continuously making attempts to take observations of the enemy's fleet."

"The battle for the supremacy of the seas will come without warning, and may take place at any time. All preparations have been made along the east coast of England for taking care of the wounded, and hospital ships are waiting ready to go out and bring the injured ashore."

The official went on to say that the recent Teutonic submarine activity in the Mediterranean would be taken off by the British alone, and that effective protection would be given to merchant vessels. The trouble had been that the guarding of shipping against submarine attacks had been under a dual control, certain sections under the French and other portions under the British. This had been all changed, he added, and the patrolling of the routes from Gibraltar to Alexandria was under the British Admiralty.

The official asserted that it was well known in Paris and London that the large submarine, reported by merchant vessels in the Mediterranean, was German, because Austria had no submarines of such a size.

"THE MEN FROM COOK'S."

The "men from Cook's" have arrived in Peking. At long last an office of this world-famous touring agency is to be opened in the capital, and Mr. Blanch and Mr. Baker, from your port, who is to be in charge, have come here to make the preliminary arrangements. Offices have been secured in the building belonging to the Chinese Eastern Railway in Legation Street, and in a short time we may expect to have in our midst a much-needed travel bureau.

THE PEKING CLUB.

Like other clubs in the Far East, the Peking Club has been forced to examine its financial future. On Monday the well-attended annual general meeting agreed to the monthly subscription being raised from \$7 to \$10 per month, the example of the Hongkong Club being quoted, but declined to raise the entrance fee from \$50 to \$100, as invited by Mr. Lenox Simpson.

OLD TIMES.

To find that an old ordinary bicycle was in use would cause something of a shock in an English town, but what was the feeling to discover a Chinese riding such a vehicle through the principal street of the capital of China, as was the case this week? Foreigners rubbed their eyes and wondered if they saw aright, but the man, who seemed to be of the mechanic class, pedalled along the Hatamen in apparent composure, while all the Chinese riding safety bicycles looked behind them and grinned with great joy.

SCARCITY OF PAPER.

Last week I commented on the scarcity of news print and the reduced size of local journals. It now transpires that some half-a-dozen papers are feeling the pinch as severely that they have closed down. Paper, which formerly cost \$2.70 a ream, now commands \$8 a ream, a price which is absolutely prohibitive for the less prosperous newspapers. These properties cannot afford to increase the price of their sheets by one cent, and so they have to go out of business.

GYMKHANA.

Sunday's bumblepuppy gymkhana, arranged by the Peking Hunt Club, was very successful in spite of the bleak weather conditions. There was a good attendance, and the entry in the several events was higher than usual, while the sport and the variety were all that could be desired, though the events might have been got through in better time. The opening scurry was remarkable for the success of a new jockey, *Johnny*, one seemed to know, Mr. Jackson. He rode Countess's pony to victory to the surprise of everybody and to the benefit of the Club, for not a single ticket was bought on him in the preliminary. Mr. Jackson had two other wins, and will no doubt be watched in future. There was a tug-of-war on donkeys which proved most amusing; a Victoria Cross race, a donkey race and a camel race. The latter evoked roars of laughter. One of the "ships of the desert" when prodded to start knelt down on the course, and left his rider badly in the lurch. The winner, ridden by Mr. Poulsen, an old hand, galloped in a most ungainly fashion, while the second camel seemed to be tangling all the way.

At times of crisis it must be Bovril

BRITISH TO THE BACKBONE



NAPIER JOHNSTONE'S
"SQUARE BOTTLE"

WHISKY.
UNVARIED FOR OVER
150 YEARS.
THE SAME TO-DAY AS IN
1745.
BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

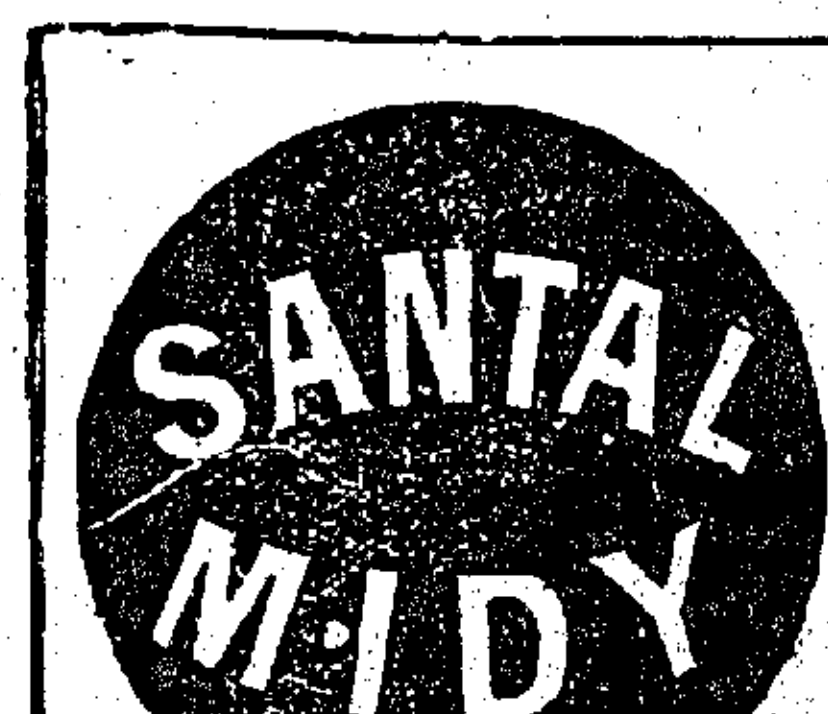
SOLE AGENTS IN HONGKONG:
LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.,
and from ALL WINE MERCHANTS.

HAVE YOU A BAD LEG

with wounds that discharge or otherwise, perhaps surrounded with inflammation and the inflamed part is so sore that it is difficult to walk, or under the skin you have noticed, which shows all the remedies you have tried, which shows your bones are swollen, the joints being inflamed, the skin is so sore, and the pain is so great, that you are unable to walk, or you may have noticed various swellings, and been told your skin is leprous, or advised to submit to amputation, but do not; try the Grasso-Hopper Treatment; which is a sure and certain remedy in cases of Bad Legs, Ulcers, Glanders, Glanular Swellings, Carbuncles, Bunions, Scabs, Itches and Dog Bites and all Skin Diseases. Send at once to the Drug Stores for a box at

GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT AND PILLS

Prepared by ALBERT, Albert & Co., Ltd., 10, Broad Street, London, W.1. and 25, Post Street, Hongkong.



These tiny Capsules — superior to Copaliba, Cubebis, and Injections — CURE the same diseases as these drugs in

FORTY-EIGHT HOURS without inconvenience. Each Capsule bears the name. Paris, 8, rue Vivienne. Sold by all Chemists.

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VISITORS AT HOTELS.

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Mr. & Mrs. Athol Anderson and maid
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Mr. C. W. Mahan
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THE WAR.

The following Cables were received on Saturday evening and issued in our Early Morning Extra yesterday.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE BATTLE OF VERDUN.

IRRESISTIBLE FURY OF THE FRENCH.

PARIS, March 10th. 1.45 p.m.

French officers say it is most difficult to restrain the men, who are anxious to attack, but there have been opportunities when the French infantry charged with irresistible fury. Such was the case in the fight for Corbeaux wood, where the German advance threatened to cut off the French holding Oie Hill.

The action began at noon on Wednesday. The French, advancing in the open, were most clever in taking cover, and they lost insignificantly, despite the German shelling. But there was desperate close-quarter fighting inside the wood, the French being absolutely frenzied.

Recently volunteered at one point to charge a deadly machine-gun which was concealed in a ditch. Leaping between the trees, they soon reached the gun and bayoneted the gunners. The wood was cleared early in the afternoon, whereupon the Germans concentrated their artillery on the wood, and their reserves made an onslaught at dusk. An all-night fight resulted in the French being masters of practically the whole wood.

A similar thing occurred at the village of Vaux, when two companies out of brigade after brigade of attacking Germans secured barricaded houses. The French counter-attacked with the bayonet and expelled them after a most ferocious conflict.

FLAGRANT LYING BY GERMANS.

PARIS, March 10th. 1.50 p.m.

A communiqué describes the German boast of the capture of Vaux as flagrant lying.

It says that at the very hour the Berlin telegram appeared, a French Staff Officer, entering the fort at Vaux, found that it had not been attacked but remained in French hands.

The communiqué points out that the Germans have been multiplying falsehoods since the failure of their offensive.

It is officially stated that the Germans are circulating the legend that the French started the offensive at Verdun.

SITUATION UNCHANGED.

PARIS, March 10th. 3.25 p.m.

An official statement says that the situation at Verdun is unchanged, and that the Germans have not attempted any infantry attack.

Reciprocal bombardment has been continued along the whole front—violent on both sides of the Meuse and intermittent in Woëvre.

French batteries have wrecked German trenches at Hill 425 eastward of Thann. The French have again bombarded German convoys in Argonne.

THE FIGHT IN CORBEAUX WOOD.

GERMANS REGARDLESS OF LOSSES.

PARIS, March 11th. 2.10 a.m.

A communiqué states that to the west of the Meuse, where the bombardment was ceaseless during the day, the enemy furiously assaulted the French positions in Corbeaux wood. Several attacks were repulsed successively by artillery, infantry and machine fire which devastated the enemy's ranks.

Notwithstanding that their losses were utterly disproportionate to their objective, the Germans delivered a final assault with a division and succeeded in re-occupying the part of the Corbeaux wood which the French had retaken from them on the 8th inst.

The Germans to the east of the Meuse twice attacked the French trenches west of the village of Douaumont but were stopped by French artillery and machine fire. They failed to approach the positions anywhere.

The French artillery stopped an attack which was being prepared against the village of Vaux.

It is confirmed that the Germans lost heavily on Thursday in the attacks against the village and the trenches at the bottom of the ridge surrounded by Fort Vaux.

The enemy bombardment in Woëvre was intense but was vigorously countered by the French batteries.

The Germans threw floating mines into the Meuse at St. Mihiel but these were fished out before doing damage.

The French wrecked enemy organisations in Lorraine.

MAD OBSTINACY OF THE GERMANS.

FRIGHTFUL SACRIFICES WITHOUT AN INCH GAINED.

PARIS, March 11th. 7.10 p.m.

It is semi-officially announced that the Germans in attempting to retrieve their failures showed incredible ferocity. In their mad obstinacy they made frightful sacrifices but did not gain an inch. A German army corps failed to make an impression on Bothenourt while the French continued to advance on Corbeaux wood.

Several German corps attacked on a three-kilometre front in the Douaumont and Vaux regions. The enemy regiments were annihilated by artillery and rifle fire. The carnage only ceased with the approach of dusk and the commencement of a snow storm.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

FRENCH AIR SUCCESSSES.

TEN GERMAN MACHINES BROUGHT DOWN.

PARIS, March 10th.

A communiqué gives an account of some brilliant French air successes. There have been numerous actions, mostly over the German lines. Fifteen German aeroplanes were routed. Ten were seen to plunge vertically towards their own lines. A Fokker and another were brought down in Champagne and three at Verdun.

SERIOUS RIOTING IN GERMANY.

AMSTERDAM, March 10th.

The *Telegraaf* reports that there was serious rioting in Cologne on March 7, in consequence of the German losses at Verdun. Travelers were prevented from leaving the trains at the station. It is reported that guns are posted in the streets to restrain the mobs.

SUCCESSFUL AEROPLANE ATTACK.

LONDON, March 11th.

A communiqué states that yesterday 31 aeroplanes made a successful attack on the enemy's railroad. All returned safely. It is believed that considerable damage was done.

As a result of a fight in the air a hostile machine and one of our own were downed near Tournai last evening.

Bombing attacks against two of our craters near Hohenloer were both repulsed. Today there was much activity on both sides near Hohenloer, Loos and between Quinquerque and Fauquissart. North of Fauquissart our artillery damaged a mine shaft.

THE NEAR EAST.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMANS EVACUATE ISPAHAN.

SUBMISSION OF PERSIAN TRIBES.

PETROGRAD, March 10th.

The Germans are evacuating Ispahan. The occupation of Kermanshah has resulted in the submission of the Persian tribes. Negotiations for the surrender of the German conspirators are progressing.

RUSSIAN NAVAL BASE.

PETROGRAD, March 10th.

Rizch, which is situated in a sheltered bay, will be the naval base for the coming Russian advance on Trebizond.

THE NEW DEFENCES OF EGYPT.

ANY ATTACK DOOMED TO FAILURE.

LONDON, March 10th.

Reuters' correspondent with the Mediterranean expeditionary force says that the new defences of Egypt are practically complete. They are no longer based on the Canal but are firmly established far out in the desert. Even if the Turks should overcome the difficulties and cost of organising an expedition they would be doomed to perish in battle and from thirst if they rashly tried to break through the defences.

RUSSIANS NEARING TREBIZOND.

NO CONFIRMATION OF PEACE PROPOSALS.

PETROGRAD, March 10th.

The Russians are within 40 versts of Trebizond. The British officials have no definite information regarding the Turkish peace proposals to Russia. In view of the Allies' compact any such proposals to be successful must be made to the Allies as a whole.

In the absence of reliable news no importance is attached to the reports of the attempted assassination or death of Enver Pasha.

NAVAL ACTIVITIES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

DESTROYER AND TORPEDO-BOAT MINED.

LONDON, March 10th.

It is officially stated that the destroyer *Coquette* and torpedo-boat 11 have been mined and sunk off the East Coast. The casualties are four officers and forty-one men.

FRENCH BARQUE SUNK.

LONDON, March 10th.

The French barque *Ville Dukavre* has been sunk. Two lives were lost.

GERMANY AND PORTUGAL AT WAR.

LONDON, March 10th.

A Berlin message says it is officially announced that Germany considers herself in a state of war with Portugal.

The German declaration of war against Portugal recites what it calls a long series of breaches of neutrality, including the free passage of British troops through Mozambique, the purchase of guns, etc., from the Entente, the seizure of German ships, and concludes that Portugal is placing the wishes of Great Britain over all other considerations.

THE BRITISH ARMY.

FOUR MILLION MEN.

LONDON, March 10th.

The Army Estimates provide for a personnel of four million men, exclusive of the Dominion troops and the British troops in India.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE DRINK PROBLEM.

RESULT OF RESTRICTIONS.

LONDON, March 10th.

Mr. Lloyd George told a Temperance deputation that the drink restrictions had caused a decrease of 40 per cent. in drunkenness. He believed that the people, before the war was ended, would realise that the future of the Empire depended on a settlement of the drink question.

EAST HERTS BYE-ELECTION.

LONDON, March 10th.

The bye-election at East Herts has resulted as follows:—

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE RETURNED.

LONDON, March 10th.

Mr. Pemberton Billing (Independent) 4,590
Capt. Brodie Henderson (Coalition) 3,559

Majority 1,031

The result is noteworthy because of the fact that Mr. Billing was fighting for an improved Air Service. Captain Henderson is a Unionist, but he had official Liberal support.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, March 10th.

Messrs. Montague's report says that the undertone of the silver market continues good. Prices are well maintained. The supplies are not large, but the demand has somewhat broadened, though the Indian hazards and China have made only moderate purchases.

Exchange on China is nearer parity than for some time. The degree making the rupee legal tender in Egypt is interesting as a step towards the co-ordination of the local currency of the Empire, and it also indicates another drain upon the stock of silver rupees.

The Director of the United States Mint has estimated the world's production of silver in 1915 at nearly nineteen and three-quarter millions sterling.

THE NEED FOR MEN.

LONDON, March 11th.

Mr. Tennant announces that the Government is carefully considering the question of enlisting single men who are working in munition factories.

WORKERS IN MUNITION FACTORIES.

LONDON, March 11th.

Mr. Tennant announces that the Government is carefully considering the question of enlisting single men who are working in munition factories.

THE WAR ON NON-COMBATANTS.

BRITISH LOSSES.

LONDON, March 11th.

Mr. Asquith has made a statement that British non-combatants killed by bombardment number 49 men, 39 women and 39 children, while the numbers killed by air raids are 127 men, 98 women and 87 children. As the result of the sinking of vessels 2,750 have been drowned.

OPERATIONS IN EAST AFRICA.

STEADY PROGRESS.

LONDON, March 11th.

The War Office announces that after the occupation of Lake Chala yesterday General Ventura pushed on to Taveta, which he found partially evacuated. Some Germans with a machine-gun surrendered to General Benger. We occupied Tazara signal station. General Tighe commenced the bombardment and attack of Salaita, which we occupied. Operations continue.

DIFFICULTIES IN MESOPOTAMIA.

LACK OF WATER.

LONDON, March 11th.

An official report states that Major General Aylmer was operating on the 8th inst. seven miles from the right bank of the Tigris, but in consequence of lack of water he was compelled to fall back on the river after removing all the wounded.

GERMANY'S DEBT TO BRAZIL.

COFFEE GROWERS ANXIOUS ABOUT THEIR MONEY.

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 10th.

The *Journal of Commerce* recalls that Germany owes Brazil nearly five millions sterling for coffee which she will probably never be able to pay. The journal suggests that Brazil should prevent the sailing of German ships from Brazilian harbours and negotiate with Germany for the chartering of them in order to relieve the congestion of Brazilian exports. The most rigorous measures are advocated in the event of Germany's refusal.

THE DARDANELLES.

ATHENS, March 11th.

It is believed that the mines have been removed from the Dardanelles to allow German submarines to pass through to the Black Sea.

DISCONTENT IN BULGARIA.

LONDON, March 11th.

There is much discontent in Bulgaria. Peace demonstrations have been ruthlessly suppressed.

ILLNESS OF SIR L. S. JAMESON.

LONDON, March 10th.

Sir Leander Starr Jameson (President of the British South Africa Company) has been operated on for kidney trouble. A second operation is necessary.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

OBITUARY.

CAPTAIN BOND SHELTON.

LONDON, March 10th.

The death is announced of Captain Bond Shelton, a survivor of the *Birkenhead*.

LORD RONALD LEVESON-GOWER.

The death is also announced of Lord Ronald Leveson-Gower.

EMBARGO ON PRESERVED FRUITS.

LONDON, March 11th.

His Majesty has signed the Proclamation prohibiting the import of preserved fruits.

SKIRMISH WITH MEXICAN BANDITS.

NEW YORK, March 11th.

THE NEW SATURDAY TO MONDAY.

The very new soldier, learning his new business in England, finds many things to produce the illusion that he is once more a boy at school. No one of them does so more poignantly than the week-end's leave from a stern superior. He has been accustomed perhaps to give himself a holiday whenever his power of self-deception made him believe that he needed one. Little did he know how much he missed through this supreme and spurious liberty.

An extraordinary zest is added to his holiday by the fact that he has now to ask humbly and hopefully for it; as he used to ask his tutor; and that, of his request, he granted, he must return by a certain and hideously early hour under vaguely appalling penalties. Packing, which he used to deem a tedious and feminine art, now has something sacred about it. Tooth-brushes and nail scissors become symbols of escape and he toys with them lingeringly and lovingly. He stands cheerfully waiting, far too soon, in a long row of other escaped school-boys, and when he is at last in his carriage it must be a first-class carriage, which is the great advantage of becoming a British officer—he would like to produce sweetstuff from a grubby pocket and eat it all the way up to London.

When he arrives at the terminus, of course he must have a taxi, though the Underground would do just as well and save half-crown, in order not to lose a single minute. And when a lovely, first-class quality there is about the first meal—tea, if it is a very early one, and dinner if it is a late one—then he has a theatre. Can it be that before he was a temporary lieutenant, he had grown almost tired of theatres, that the difficulties of cash finding, if the night were wet, rode him like a nightmare throughout the last act? Moreover, there is a very special reason for enjoying this theatre. From the beginning of the war, long before he ever dreamed that one so futile and despicable could ever be needed, he had an uncomfortable feeling as the play that he ought not to be amused. Now he wears the legible statement that he has the right to enjoy himself. He may even hear himself sung about under some intrinsically unengaging if well-meant title as a gallant lad in khaki, and that as Mr. Pecksniff would say, "it is likewise very soothing."

There is a youthful holiday feeling too about the revelling in small comforts, and after moderately Spartan living, a little luxury goes a long way. Early tea in the morning, a nice late morning—this is a thing to dream of overnight, and just think of going to bed by a fire, not tinking in icy cold, but undressing stage by stage and nursing over the glowing coals. There is also good eating and good drinking. The week-end soldier is quite conscious that the fatted calf is killed for him and, like the school boy, he accepts it without any overwhelming sense of obligation. Kindly cooks, who know him in his infancy, have treasured up memories of his favourite dishes, and these love-tokens become more numerous as the too short leave draws near its close. In the end there is almost a fearful difficulty in gulping them down.

There was many years ago a small boy who loved Castle puddings above all others. It was a sober, unexciting, even old-fashioned pudding, but he clung to it and on the last day of every holiday, when the cab was ordered and you could almost hear the crunching of its wheels, Castle puddings appeared upon the dinner table. The ritual was adhered to when he went to Oxford; after that it might have been expected to cease. But it so chanced that the undergraduate turned into a school-master and so the ordeal of the puddings went on and became a rather ghastly family joke. At last he could bear it no more; he retired from his profession and made his life one long holiday, so the only means of avoiding Castle puddings.

Something of the same feeling slightly mays the brightness of the last few golden hours. To-morrow night they will all be eating their good dinner and he, at such moments a man takes a distinctly personal view of the war. "It's about time this dreadful war stopped, don't you think so, sir?" said a gloomy private the other day. "How long have you been at it?" he was asked. "About three months, sir. They've taken out all my teeth but two, and they're going to vaccinate us next month." That is the Sunday night sentiment and the Monday morning sentiment too, when the poor wretch sallies out into the dusk to catch the 7.10 train from Waterloo (Ugh!). Brookwood—North Camp—Aldershot—they sound like funeral bells tolling in his ears, but, once home was left behind, going back to school was not such bad fun and he is reasonably cheerful again by 8.30.—Times.

ENEMY OUTNUMBERED.

A correspondent, writing from the British Headquarters in France says:—I cannot naturally give you anything approaching to definite figures, but I think you may take it that we outnumber the Germans. We can take their first line of trenches any time we want to, but strategy has to look considerably beyond the business of breaking through, which is a good many folks at home seem to think is the only thing necessary to finish the struggle.

The "break through" is coming along all right, but not until we are all ready to move definitely from this uncomfortable chateau.

It has become a sort of stock phrase now to say that for every shell the enemy sends us we return him two; as a matter of fact we often do a great deal more than this. Not very long since, just to make us understand, I suppose, that they were still dangerously alive, the Boches "knapped" us to the extent of 200 rounds. We returned their little attention with 1,000 shells. It took some days of quiet thinking to get over this.

Then, again, not only do we outnumber them in our field and heavy artillery, but there is a growing confidence on the part of our gunners that our weapons are better than theirs. The enemy has, in fact, unmistakably passed his zenith, and is now on the down grade.

AUSTRALIA'S WORK FOR THE EMPIRE.

SUCCESS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

REWARD OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PEOPLE.

The United Kingdom branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association entertained the Right Hon. Andrew Fisher last month on his appointment as High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia. The luncheon was held in the Harcourt Room of the House of Commons, and the Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, the chairman, had the support of a very distinguished company.

MR. BALFOUR ON IMPERIAL UNITY. Mr. Balfour, in proposing the health of the guest, mentioned that Mr. Fisher had held both the office of Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Australia. He proceeded:—Mr. Fisher has always been an ardent and devoted supporter of the Empire Parliamentary Association. He assisted greatly, both by presence and by speech, the visit of members of the British Parliament to Australia. (Cheers.) His kindness will be fresh in the recollections of many who hear my words—(hear, hear)—and he has throughout the whole movement, clearly perceived how much was to be gained both from the point of view of Imperial policy and of sound constitutional government by bringing into touch all the assemblies which, in different parts of the Empire, are occupied in that by no means easy task, combining administrative efficiency with popular government. (Hear, hear.)

There is still one more reason why I think we may welcome Mr. Fisher's visit to the present moment. He has been here before when the subject under discussion was the method of knitting more closely together the bonds of Empire. He has taken part in the eager discussions which that great subject has always aroused in every part of the Empire, but on these previous occasions it was always a matter of speculation whether an Empire, in appearance so loosely knit together, was really capable of standing the stress and strain of a great crisis. There had been no clear and conclusive proof of this before, although happy auguries had been shown when the Empire found itself on previous occasions in difficulties.

But the great crisis in which we are now living was well in the future, and it was still open to the cynically-minded prophet to say that all this talk about the unity and coherence of the British Empire was nothing more than talk—an amiable, agreeable appealing to most respectable sentiments, but more fit to survive the winter than to survive the stress and strain of storm.

Well, the storm has come. It has come with a violence which even the nearest prophet never foresaw. The whole world, or most of the world, is actively engaged, is suffering and dying, is giving up life, property, money, and hopes in a contest unequalled in the history of the planet.

IMMORTAL MEMORIES.

How has the British Empire so far stood that strain and stress? Mr. Fisher will tell you from his experience in one great Dominion. We who have seen and heard what the Australians have done in battle—(cheers)—know what is the value of their contribution to the great Imperial cause. (Hear, hear.) I have heard men who know what fighting is, who have seen fighting in many parts of the world, who have seen the slaughter on the Western front of the great battle-front, who have known the world has never seen fighting or even conceived fighting greater than that shown by the Australian and New Zealand divisions at Anzac. (Cheers.)

These are immortal memories. They bring us to us in a concrete and quite unforgettable manner what the unity of the Empire really means, and I rejoice to think that we have now among us only a visitor—now no longer a visitor—who by the arduous duties of his office will always bring closer to our minds the reflection that we live in an age and at a moment of which, whatever else can be said of it, this can be said of it—that it has proved in the face of all mankind and before the tribunal of history that it has been possible for the first time in the history of mankind that free, self-governing communities, self-governing though they be, can yet cherish that sentiment of unity which hitherto was only supposed to be possible in some form of government—whether monarchical or republican. That new experiment has now been put to the test. It has survived the test, and we may truly say that from this war dates not only a new chapter in the history of the world, but also a new chapter in the history of the Empire, the most novel and perhaps the greatest experiment in Imperial government the world has yet seen. (Loud cheers.)

KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOMINIONS. Mr. Fisher, who was very cordially received on rising to reply, said:—As was said by Mr. Balfour that there existed a grave doubt as to the position of the Overseas Dominions and the British Empire prior to this war. Judging from my recent visits to my native country (Scotland), that grave doubt was much more in evidence in the Old Country than ever it was in the Dominions. One of the reasons, in my opinion, why it existed there was largely on account of the lack of knowledge possessed by the people here of their own possessions.

This association is one of those institutions that is mightier than its name. It has grasped the idea, too long delayed, that those who control the affairs at the centre of this great Empire ought not only to be in possession of all the official information that can reach them through official channels, but they ought, because of the facilities of modern transport, to be able to see those distant countries and meet the people who are there. I know of no other way that safety, unity, and progress can be maintained. (Cheers.)

AUSTRALIAN CHARACTER.

By way of parenthesis, may I strike a personal note? I have had the pleasure of visiting every Dominion except Newfoundland. I have travelled through most of the territories of the Dominions; large as they are. I have met their prominent public men at various periods of my life, and have frequently returned to my native country. I know of nothing that gives a man greater stability and confidence against all troubles than a knowledge of the world, and I appeal to my friends here,

A BELGIAN VICTORY IN EQUATORIA.

SUPERIOR FORCE BADLY BEATEN IN 19 HOURS' BATTLE.

Details have been received of a serious defeat inflicted on the Germans near the East African frontier by a small Belgian garrison. The latter, after 19 hours' hot fighting, drove off the enemy, who was in greatly superior numbers, and remained masters of the battlefield.

At 5.30 a.m. on September 27 an enemy force under 100 Europeans, with 600 regular soldiers and a large number of auxiliary askari, with Maxim, Hotchkiss and field guns, attacked, at a place called Lavingia, the Belgian garrison of three Europeans and 150 soldiers, with one gun, supported by two companies with eight Europeans and three machine guns.

The Germans were very desperate; they had declared that the German flag should fly over the post before the day was out. On the Belgian side both officers and men displayed the greatest bravery. They lost one officer killed and one wounded, with 20 soldiers killed and 40 wounded. The enemy suffered heavily. They removed a large number of dead and wounded from the battlefield.

The Belgians found and buried one white German officer and 66 soldiers of the enemy's force. They also captured machine guns, rifles, cartridges and equipment. The enemy finally retired under cover of darkness.

Lord Denning and others, who have had the opportunity of seeing us, whether Australian character has not developed largely because of the migratory character of the people. They know their country, they know their strength, they have measured themselves alongside the best of other nations, and they fear no man.

Now I come to the point I was going to make. When his Majesty's Government gave back to South Africa the government they might have lost by war, Mr. Balfour, by his expressions, was in some doubt of the result of the confidence reposed in the inauguration, had no doubt at all. The extension of freedom, liberty, and confidence in a people who know what government is, and the necessity of it brings back a hundredfold reward to those who give them that confidence. (Cheers.) If anything has given greater lustre to the name of this country it was that Act and the fruits that have flown from it.

The people of Australia at the present time are thinking things that they feel they might say, but they are not saying them. If I am able to interpret their mind they have only one thought, and that is to bring this great world's war—disgraceful on the part of those who brought it about, barbarian on the part of the aggressors—(cheers)—to a speedy close whatever the sacrifice may be. (Cheers.) But they have not decided themselves with the idea that it is near its close. I had this morning a communication from the Minister saying that, notwithstanding the harvest going on, recruiting was excellent, and I think that will continue. (Cheers.)

AUSTRALIA AND THE NAVY.

Lieut.-Colonel Abbott, an Australian officer who has recently arrived from Gallipoli, proposed the health of the chairman. He said that in Australia, by reason of their isolation, they recognised that, but for the efficiency of the Navy, Australia would cease to exist. He had been rather surprised in the Old Country to find this question put: Why is it that out of a population in Australia of 4,500,000 200,000 men have already been on active service? By recent return he was pleased to see that by June next Australia would have 300,000 men in the field. (Cheers.) The answer to the question was simple. They knew that in this world's Armageddon if the fortunes of war should be against the Allies, and the colonies had to be considered, it was the offshoots of the Empire that would suffer most. In Australia they said they were fighting for their very life-blood. By reason of their isolation they individually had more to lose than the average Britisher here at home.

FRUITS OF VICTORY.

Personally, he was proud that he had the opportunity of doing his little part in the Eastern Mediterranean. Providence had been kind to some, though they could not say why. They had had many fine fellows associated with them. He was not speaking of Australians only. Attached to his own regiment he had fine men from the Suffolks, the Norfolks, and several other British regiments, who came for some weeks' practice in bomb-throwing and general work. The association, the inter-leaving which thus took place in the trenches, would do more to create the proper affinity which should be between the British soldier and the Australian soldier than anything else he had seen. (Cheers.) They got down to common ground. The lads from both countries by an interchange of opinions and expressions—(laughter)—of slangs and other things foreign to himself, did much to wipe away that breach which to a certain extent had existed. That would bear great fruit in the future, and one outcome of the war would be a better understanding of both sides. (Cheers.)

Mr. Balfour, in returning thanks, said:—Colonel Abbott's speech, I confess, has greatly moved me, not on personal grounds, but because he referred to a thing which has been very near my heart for a long time, namely, the desire that troops from the great dominions should not merely fight side by side with us—that has been fully and absolutely attained—not that they should have identical feelings about the cause for which we are fighting—that also has been completely attained—but that they should fight intermixed, so that a complete personal knowledge should be the result following from this war. (Hear, hear.) It would be lamentable in my opinion if, by the end of this war, there was not something beyond the common sentiment of Empire, the common sentiment of the cause in which we are engaged, with our own addition to that personal good fellowship, that intercommunication of ideas, that interchange of sentiment and affection which surely might follow if the opportunities were adequately given by those who have it in their power to give them. (Cheers.)

SIR EDWARD GREY ON THE BLOCKADE.

PLAIN WORDS TO NEUTRALS.

The Order in Council of last March stands, and will stand. That is the upshot of the very important statement made by Sir Edward Grey on Mr. Shirley Benn's motion urging the Government "to enforce as effective a blockade as possible."

It is not to be changed for a regular blockade, as it would make no difference, except to neutrals, whose ships would be rendered increasingly liable to confiscation if they tried to break through.

That ought clearly to be understood by the public after the debate of the 29th Jan. The Government are doing all they can to stop goods from getting into Germany. Nothing goes direct. What goes indirectly through neutral ports is kept down as much as possible. All ships are subject to scrutiny. They are brought to our ports to be examined. If the Navy has any reason to suspect them of carrying goods destined for the enemy. The claim of the Government is that more could not be done than is being done, unless Great Britain took "the high-handed and provocative" line of saying that neutrals should be deprived of goods which they require for their own consumption. Leakage there is bound to be. But Sir Edward Grey told the House that Lord Faringdon, who has been making an independent inquiry into the matter, reports that the leakage is much less than might have been expected, and that the position is really very satisfactory.

FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE NAVY.

The British public has evidently been grossly deceived by the alarmist figures paraded before them in certain quarters. Sir Edward Grey gave a crushing exposure of some of these statistics and the references drawn from them. He took, for example, the sensational story that the four Scandinavian countries had imported in a certain period an increase of 31,000,000 bushels of wheat from the United States. The figures had shot up from 19,000,000 bushels to 50,000,000, and the inference was that the Scandinavian countries had been badly feeding Germany with the difference. Sir Edward showed that the statistician in question had omitted to note that Spain, Portugal, Greece, and Malta had shared with the Scandinavian countries in importing these 30,000,000 bushels, and had, in fact, taken 23,000,000 bushels of the total increase of 31,000,000—owing to their having been cut off from their ordinary channels of supply, viz., the Black Sea ports. Several other million bushels were allowed to be imported for the Belgian Relief Fund, and thus practically the whole increase was accounted for. So much for scare statistics.

The Foreign Secretary was equally successful in demolishing another fiction. Rumour has been very busy of late circulating the story that while the Navy is anxious to strangle Germany, the Foreign Office keeps on interfering and tearing away the Navy's strong hand. Sir Edward Grey informed the House that during the last year there have only been three cases in which over-riding orders have been given from London. Two of these were decided by the Cabinet; the third was the recent case of the *Stockholm*, when the Swedish Government sent a special appeal based on special reasons. In that case Sir Edward Grey consulted the Prime Minister and the Admiralty, and telegraphed to Sweden asking for specific assurances which, he said, had not yet been received.

But, as he explained to the House of Commons, the ordinary procedure, when a ship is brought into port, is for her case to be considered by the War Contraband Committee, who decide whether she shall be allowed to proceed or be sent before a Prize Court. This Committee—to whose work a generous tribute was paid—is presided over by Mr. Pollock, and has only one representative of the Foreign Office upon it, as against two of the Admiralty and one of the Board of Trade. The "offensive" charge, therefore, that the Foreign Office is hampering the work of the Navy is, like most current rumours, an absolute fabrication, and Sir Edward asked with some indignation whether it was not about time that these reckless charges were stopped, especially as they are bound to have a bad effect upon the Navy.

PLAIN WORDS TO NEUTRALS.

No attempt was made to minimise the inconvenience which the Order in Council inflicts on neutrals. It is regrettable, but it is impossible to avoid it. If neutrals more agreeable to themselves, the Government will be ready to consider them—so long as they do not interfere with the effectiveness of our restraint on the enemy's trade. But there must be no mistake about that. The British Government are adamant on that point.

Alluding to the last American Note, Sir Edward said that the Government were consulting with the French Government as to the answer which was to be sent. The Note contained claims which, if conceded, would reduce the advantages of British sea control to a nullity. But he did not think they were meant to be pressed. Then, in an important passage, he said that the main question was whether neutrals were prepared to admit our right to apply the principles which the United States had applied during the Civil War. If so, then they should help to make it easy for us to distinguish between goods meant for the consumption of neutrals and goods meant for an enemy destination. If not, then he said deliberately, "It is a departure from neutrality." The House heartily cheered that plain declaration to all whom it may concern.

Sir Edward concluded by appealing to neutrals to consider the very different treatment which they had received from Germany, who had sunk neutral vessels at sight. He exposed the hollowness of Germany's plea that she had acted thus as a measure of retaliation, and eloquently claimed for Great Britain that she was entitled to claim for herself the utmost rights which she had ever recognised in other belligerents in previous wars. The Allies could give up nothing—that was his plea. The war had been mainly forced upon them, when it might easily have

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been prevented," and he pledged anew the determination of the British Government to see it through to the very end.

EFFECTS OF THE SPEECH.

Such was the substance of the eagerly awaited speech of the Foreign Secretary. Of its effect there could be no doubt whatever, for it killed further interest in the discussion. One member said that before Sir Edward Grey spoke the feeling of nine-tenths of the House was against him, but that after he had spoken nine-tenths were with him. The first part of that statement was probably an exaggeration; the latter part was certainly true. Interest fell off to such an extent that at one time there were only five members in the House.—Daily Telegraph.

